

WFWP UK Women in Peacemaking: The Roadmap to Reconciliation Series 3

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The WFWP Northern Region hosted its third and final conference Women in Peacemaking: The Roadmap to Reconciliation series on Tuesday, 13 April 2021. This segment continued on the theme of "The Role of Women in Community Peacebuilding" and we invited our distinguished speakers – Dr. Eric Awich Ochen, Mrs. Marilyn Angelucci and Dinah Bennett – to conclude this discussion. Unfortunately, our fourth speaker, Asha Geesdiir, was unable to attend due to illness.

This final segment began with Dr. Eric Awich Ochen highlighting the importance of women's participation in conflict and governance. Dr. Ochen spoke the common narrative of women often suffering most from conflict and post-conflict experiences. He concluded by observing that women in Northern Uganda often taste the benefits of freedom, despite community-led efforts to return them to restrictive pre-conflict arrangements.

Our second speaker, Mrs. Marilyn Angelucci, spoke about the adaptability of women and the importance of family in bringing women to the peace negotiating table. She shared examples of SJAS schools in India and WFWP projects focussing on women's micro financing and scholarships for young girls. Mrs. Angelucci concluded by saying that these projects offer women simple tools and skills to improve their self-esteem; to improve their literacy and to contribute to their community.

Lastly, Dinah Bennett spoke about the gendered nature of peace. She stressed that men and women measure security differently and that, by building security from the family level upwards, increased levels of social capital are included in the peace building process. Ms. Bennett concluded by reminding the audience that women are not a homogenous group and not all women are peacemakers. In order to bring equality to the negotiating table, these facts need to be acknowledged and taken into account before, during and after peace processes.

This conference was moderated by Ms. Sherifa Carr and a QandA session followed. The common theme of listening and going to where the women are in order to create a stable community was reiterated by our three speakers in the questions: 1) How does one create sustainable community engagement and what ingredients would you recommend to achieve this? And 2) How can we impart some of the principals discussed to engage young people in peace making and building? This final conference ended on the hopeful note of focussing on the positives which have come from the Covid-19 pandemic and maintaining an open mind when rebuilding.

This segment was well attended and we received many questions through the group chat. The digital marketing statistics are as follows:

- 89% capacity tickets sold,
- Strong engagement with social media promotion,
- 500 individual engagements with the Facebook livestream in real time and
- Over 200 views of the livestream on Facebook after the event.

We would like to thank all our speakers, audience and committee members for their engagement and support over this conference series and we look forward to welcoming you all again soon!