

Women's Federation for World Peace International



United Nations Office Newsletter

Summer 2016

UN CSW60: WFWPI Parallel Event and Dinner Gala

Engaging Women in Sustainable Development: Family • Transformation • Co-Prosperity

March 15, 2016 - Salvation Army Auditorium, New York City



By *Roshan D'Souza*

The Women's Federation for World Peace International held their annual parallel event during the ten-day 60th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW60). Mrs. Alexa Ward, Deputy Director, WFWPI UN Office, moderated a panel of four women speakers at this historic event entitled: "Engaging Women in Sustainable Development: Family, Transformation, Co-Prosperity." This first CSW event after the launching of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) focused on the role and importance of women as mothers, wives and leaders and was enthusiastically celebrated by women of different races, nationalities and backgrounds. Those in attendance were reminded that the hand that rocks the cradle produces the future leaders that can rock a nation and rule the world.



Dr. Amalle Daou, medical doctor, wife of former Permanent Representative of Mali to the UN, and founder of Active Intervention for Mothers (AIM), shared about AIM's mission and commitment to improving maternal and child health, highlighting the organization's direct support of the MDGs No. 4, 5, and 6 and SDGs No. 3 and 6. Since its creation, AIM

has been providing free medical visits and distributing free medications to women in need while raising awareness of the warning signs of maternal and child mortality. She also outlined AIM's vision for comprehensive sustainable development and stressed that global development should be based upon the four pillars of peace, universal human rights, green economy, and global partnership. Within these pillars, AIM identifies peace, security, and stability as the cornerstones of CSD and supports the enactment of "paid family leave." Dr. Daou concluded by calling for greater engagement of women in sustainable development as warranted by gender equality's crucial role in the proper implementation of the SDGs. She reminded us that persisting gender gaps resulting in lack of female access to property, transport, education, and health services will threaten sustainable livelihoods for women, subsequently hindering the overall implementation of the SDGs.

Annie Franklin, Director of International Activities, Family Watch International, presented "Motherhood and the Family," stating that mothers hold the future in their hands and need to feel empowered. Motherhood is increasingly being viewed as an unfair burden placed



CSW60 Parallel Event, contd. on pg. 11

Contents

At the UN in New York

CSW60 WFWPI Events	1
CSW60 Summary Report	2

At the UN in Geneva

31st Human Rights Council Sessions	3-4
World Humanitarian Summit	4
Reflections on Internship	8

At the UN in Vienna

Commission on Narcotic Drugs	5
Leave No One Behind	5

At the UN in Bangkok

International Women's Day	8
---------------------------------	---

Activities Around the World

WFWP Kenya & Thailand	6
Young Women Leaders Retreat	7
Upcoming Events	12

CSW60 and WFWPI Speakers

March 14-24, 2016 - UNHQ New York

By *Jeanne Carroll*

Since its initial involvement with the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in 2003, the Women's Federation for World Peace, International (WFWPI) has hosted and supported parallel events on an annual basis. This year saw a significant increase in the number of opportunities afforded WFWPI leaders and UN Team members to speak at side and parallel events organized by member states and NGOs. The following is a brief summary.

For WFWPI, these opportunities to speak began with a parallel event, sponsored by WFWPI, and co-sponsored by the Association de Intervention pour les Meres, (AIM), and Family Watch International, on March 15, with the theme, "Engaging Women in Sustainable Development: Family, Transformation, Co-Prosperity." The panel of four included **Mrs. Carolyn Handschin**, International Vice President for Europe and Director of the UN Office for WFWPI. The moderator was Mrs. Alexa Ward, International Vice President and Deputy Director of the UN Office.

Mrs. Lily Lin, WFWPI International Vice President, Asia, spoke on "Women

CSW60 WFWPI Speakers, contd. on pg. 10



Statement of Purpose

The Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI) supports a network of National WFP Chapters in over 120 nations that are dedicated to empower women with "the knowledge, the tools and the support needed to create peace at home, peace in our communities, our nations and throughout the world."



WFP programs, designed according to local needs and capacities, include: leadership training for women and girls, education for peace and reconciliation, skills development and advocacy at major UN Offices and various regional and national institutions. In support of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, WFWPI maintains over one hundred service projects in fifty nations, in the areas of education, vocational training, microcredit, AIDS prevention education, technical support, medical assistance and nutrition guidance.

WFWPI Chapters adhere to the principle that women, working together, taking initiative and empowering one another across traditional lines of age, race, culture and religion to create healthy families, are resolving the complex problems of our world. Ultimately "solutions" come as true partnerships between men and women are established in all levels of society. The beginning point is within society's most elemental level—the family. From there, peace will naturally expand.

Carolyn Handschin
Publisher & Editor-in-Chief

Yeon-ah Choi Moon
Senior Advisor Editor

Rebecca Ward - *Editor*
Christina Lange - *Distribution*
Friederike Buczyk - *Layout & Design*

This newsletter is published by the
United Nation's Office of the
Women's Federation for World Peace Int'l
4 West 43rd Street
New York, NY 10036, USA

For information, subscriptions, comments or
editorial suggestions, please write
to our New York address.

Email: unoffice@wfp.org

Other Major UN Offices

Geneva, Switzerland
Ch de la Pierreire 1c
1092 Belmont-sur-Lausanne
Phone/Fax +41 21 728 8812
Email: c.handschin@wfp.org

Vienna, Austria
Gustav Mahler Promenade, 1
5020 Salzburg
Phone: +43 650 885 1988
Email: e.riedl@wfp.org

Find us on the Web at
<http://www.wfp.org>

At the UN in New York...

CSW60: Summary Report

Women's Empowerment and It's Link to Sustainable Development

March 14-25, 2016 - UN Headquarters, New York City

By *Bonnie Berry*

Close to 1100 NGOs sent more than 8000 representatives to the 60th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW60). These NGO representatives joined global leaders, the private sector and activists in celebrating the 2030 agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while advocating for the central role of women and girls in fulfilling the seventeen SDGs. Forty-four United Nations Member States sent formal delegations and an additional 119 Member States sent delegations as observers to the proceedings. There was truly global representation in attendance at CSW60.

During the two weeks of CSW60, in addition to the formal proceedings, there were over 230 Side Events sponsored by Member States and UN Agencies held within the UN and 450 Parallel Events sponsored by NGOs held all throughout New York City. These events presented experience, good practices, and lessons learned on the priority theme of "Women's Empowerment and its Link to Sustainable Development" and the review theme of "Elimination and Prevention of all forms of Violence against Women and Girls." These events fostered discussions dealing with the creation of action plans to accelerate the implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action.

Regional Caucuses at CSW provided an opportunity for NGO representatives to learn about the status of the negotiations

among Member States. They also provided a platform for NGOs to discuss and advocate for particular issues. The number of NGO representatives on national delegations is increasing due to in large part to UN Women's urging Member States to do so.

Over the course of the two week session, there were many exceptional programs, speakers and messages. The Women's Federation for World Peace, International (WFWPI) sponsored a parallel event with the theme, "Engaging Women in Sustainable Development: Family. Transformation. Co-Prosperity." which is covered in detail in a separate article. One parallel event, entitled, "Women's Leadership: Paving the Way to Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals," was co-sponsored by Soka Gakkai, Soroptomists International, the Global Movement for a Culture of Peace, and the Bahai` Faith. Panelists included Emilia Reyes, Co-chair of the Women's Major Group (WMG) and John Romano, Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network Coordinator for the World Federation of United Nations Associations. Mr. Romano discussed the importance of national governments engaging their citizenry to actively participate in the achievement of the SDGs. He stressed the importance of identifying indicators and collecting both hard data and documentation of people's perceptions and experiences. Mr. Romano further emphasized the importance of the

CSW60 Summary, contd. on pg. 9

CSW60 Parallel Event Sponsored by Nation to Nation Networking Importance of Understanding Culture to Achieve the SDGs and Empower Women

March 19, 2016 - UN Church Center, New York City

By *Cynthia Shibuya*,
WFWPI Representative at UN

Ms. Asrat, Founder of Nation to Nation Networking, opened the event by having each speaker introduce herself, beginning with **Fatima Ahmed**, an Ambassador of Peace as well as the Founder and President of Zenab for Women in Development. Fatima's organization is based in the Sudan, where it works to help further the education of Sudanese women and provide them opportunities for advancement.

Kathryn Alcaez is a medical doctor from the Philippines who practices in New York. She treats patients from a myriad of countries and cultures. Many of her patients have specific cultural perspectives and practices which make it difficult for them to fully trust modern medicine. Dr. Alcaez is sensitive to these cultural differences and makes every effort to bridge the gap in practices by

incorporating ideas with which the patients are more familiar (i.e. holistic medicines) into the healing process. Her sensitivity to the diversity of patients' cultural backgrounds has allowed her to establish trust with her patients, which is a key factor in the healing process. Through Dr. Alcaez's broad-minded, inclusive and sometimes unorthodox approach to healing, she has been able to build a successful practice and offer quality care.

June Terry, a fashion consultant, attended the event dressed in a traditional African dress which she herself designed. A daughter of sharecroppers, Ms. Terry is committed to expressing pride in the culture of her parents and ancestors and works to instill that same pride in her family and others. Her fashion line of dresses and accessories reflects her African culture and heritage.

Culture & SDGs, contd. on pg. 8

At the UN in Geneva ...

31st HRC: Human Rights Mainstreaming & Agenda for Sustainable Development

February 26, 2016 - UNHQ Geneva

By Carolyn Handschin

This year's Human Rights Council's annual half day discussion on Human Rights Mainstreaming focused on the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, looking at its relationship to the Right to Development, a major concern of the work of the Council.

(According to the General Assembly Resolution 41/128, the Right to Development "entitles every human person and all peoples to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy development, in which all human rights can be fully realized." This not very concise definition contributes to concerns of it becoming a "right to everything" and as such, remains in the body of "soft law.")

The President of the Human Rights Council (HRC), UN Secretary General, the High Commissioner for Human Rights (HCHR) and the President of the General Assembly (GA) all made opening statements. Ambassador Choi Kyong-Lim, the President-elect of the 31st HRC, launched the debate by reminding the audience of the importance of creating mechanisms to monitor the implementation of the SDGs. The 2030 development goals put human rights and people at the very center. SG Ban Ki-moon said that the HRC is "a vital guardian of human rights," giving victims a "venue, a vehicle and a voice." The realization of the SDGs is not possible without security and peace- and human rights, the core of our humanity.

Mr. Morgens Lyksetoft, GA President, explained that the development goals need to move beyond the UN and be owned by governments and people. Success will rest

on the empowerment of the people and inclusive governance. High Commissioner Zeid Re'ad Al Hussein remarked that the Right to Development offers an "enabling environment to ensure that the goals of the Agenda be achieved in practice and that the processes of development are inclusive and just." Work is urgently needed to make a two-way flow of information from Human Rights institutions' resources such as the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and Human Rights Councils' Special Procedures (independent human rights experts with mandates to report and advise on human rights from a thematic or country-specific perspective).

Ms. Kate Gilmore, Deputy HCHR, was the panel moderator. She proposed the meeting as an opportunity to reflect on the Millennium Development Goals, and reminded all that "human rights are not competitors for security and resilience, but they are fundamental building blocks." The first panelist was Mr. Zamir Akram, Chair of the Working Group on Development. He stressed that the relationship between the SDGs and the Right to Development are symbiotic and without meeting basic human needs, there can be no human rights.

Ms. Helen Clark, current and first woman Administrator of the UN Development Program, emphasized that human rights remain core to all forward-looking strategies of the UN. In the other direction, all current decisions are rooted in the wisdom and strengths of our founding documents and this provides stability and continuity. The third panelist,



31st Session of the Human Rights Council (HRC)



HRC High Commissioner Zeid Re'ad Al Hussein (Jordan)



SG Ban Ki-moon appoints Maestro Barenboim/West Eastern Divan Orchestra as UN Global Advocate for Cultural Understanding

Executive Director of the UN Population Fund (UNPF), Mr. Babatunde Osotimehin, contended that the 2030 Agenda is a historical benchmark, especially in the participatory process that led to it. The prioritized call for women, young girls and youth is especially

Mainstreaming, contd. on pg. 12

31st HRC: Annual Day on the Rights of the Child

Internet and ICT - What are the Dangers for Children and Young People?

March 7, 2016 - UNHQ Geneva

By Claire Millet, University Student and WFWPI Intern

The Annual Day designated to discussions related to the Rights of the Child during the March Session of the Human Rights Council put emphasis on the potential dangers of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to youth and children. There were several debates that dealt with the risks that children potentially face when they use the internet. The need for new standards and policies that protect children on the Internet was addressed, that would allow adults to provide fast and effective intervention when necessary.

It is no secret that Internet technology takes up more and more space in daily life, enabling people to contact friends and share information. What is less known and understood is the continuous appearance of new threats affecting

children and young adults on the Internet and some of the unforeseen side effects of the "protections" being put into place.

Young people have quasi unlimited access to the Internet and often freely surf the Web. Among the frequent threats children face while surfing the Web are web-harassment and cyber-bullying by peers. It was reported that children who are not aware of the potential dangers of the Internet are most vulnerable to harassment and easily become prey for people with perverse intentions. Among other dangers, personal and private information is also vulnerable on the Internet, particularly on networks frequented by young people.

In order to protect children from the dangers of the Internet, mounting legislative pressure is pushing Internet service providers to censor and filter sites of high risk to youth. This censorship

covers sites with sexual or violent content, but it can also mean the restriction of educational or health-related sites. So the question remains-how to balance the child's right to information with their right to be kept safe from harm?

As it respects the protection of personal information, paradoxically, in order to protect young people, the provision of personal information, such as birth dates, is often required for age verification purposes. This collected and stored information can then be shared with suppliers, hackers, etc.

In addition to the breach of private information, young people must be wary about relationships formed on the Internet. Adults as well as peers can become a threat to young people on the internet. Young people are more vulnerable to manipulation and the prevalence

Rights of the Child, contd. on pg. 12

At the UN in Geneva ...

International Council of Voluntary Agencies & World Humanitarian Summit Complementarity in Humanitarian Action

April 5, 2016 - Geneva

By Carolyn Handschin

Key representatives of the diverse and complex humanitarian “ecosystem” that responds to populations in crises met in Geneva, Switzerland for the annual International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) conference. The attendees included the UN, Red Cross and Red Crescent, government representatives who represent donors and recipients, and a broad array of humanitarian NGOs and academics.

Early in the conference, reference was made to the “Principles of Partnership,” a groundbreaking agreement, endorsed in 2006 by the Global Humanitarian Platform, which “brings together the UN and non-UN humanitarian organizations on an equal footing.” (<http://www.globalhumanitarianplatform.org>.) This platform states that partnership should be based on 5 principles: equality, transparency, result-oriented approach, responsibility and complementarity. Complementarity was defined as such in the Platform: “The diversity of the humanitarian community is an asset if we build on our comparative advantages and complement each other’s contributions. Humanitarian organizations should strive to make (the local capacities) an integral part in

emergency response. Language and cultural barriers must be overcome.” It was this 5th principle that became the focus of the ICVA conference.

The main issue at hand was how to operate humanitarian programs effectively in the current crowded “aid” environment when national and local governments, local institutions and an increasingly concerned private sector are addressing the same crises and stepping on each other’s toes. All of these organizations, working simultaneously together and at odds with one another, may avoid communication, causing overlap and wasted resources (human and other). WFWPI has joined the Geneva-based network with an eye on becoming more effective in its own humanitarian programs, which span several continents and include over 80 projects.

How to coordinate the international mandates, public perceptions, donor interest and local concerns while creating a more flexible, caring system that can assess and respond to the immediate and longer term needs of the affected? As was often mentioned during the discussions, local capacities need to be included and consulted. Calls for review of the system have been mounting, coming



ICVA Plenary Session

from both the humanitarian actors and the vulnerable populations.

The three focal points of the conference were defined: “unpack” the concept of complementarity; share good practices in complementarity and its impediments; and, link the concept of complementarity to the upcoming First World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in Istanbul from May 23-26, 2016. Each session’s theme was introduced succinctly by two “experts,” allowing much time for interaction from the participants, who were all, in fact, experts in their fields.

Global consultations leading up to this historic first WHS outlined a list of priorities that demand political leadership, including: causes of displacement, financing sources and a shift from “delivering aid” to “ending need.” These were all touched during the course of the ICVA debates. The impending WHS gave an increased sense of urgency to the exchanges, knowing that the outcomes would be passed on to Istanbul.



31st HRC Side Event: Women’s Rights Post-Conflict Violence Against Women. From Words to Deeds.

March 18, 2016 - Geneva

By Dr. Amiira Neff, Representative at the UN in Geneva for WFWPI

The 31st Session of the Human Rights Council was held in Geneva from February 29 - March 24. WFWPI was invited to speak at this side event organized by Maraismo. The following is a summary of Amiira Neff’s presentation.

“Violence against women is a source of misery and loss of life, and because of it, many of the world’s women live in fear and pain. It harms families across generations, impoverishes communities and reinforces other forms of violence in all societies. Violence against women prevents women from achieving their potential, hampers economic growth and undermines development. The scope and extent of violence against women are a reflection of the degree and persistence of discrimination that women continue to face. We can eliminate it by addressing discrimination, promoting gender equality, empowering women and ensuring respect for their fundamental rights.

Women’s movements and organizations around the world have shed a global spotlight on the issue of violence against women. Their activities have highlighted the fact that violence

against women is not the result of individual and spontaneous acts of misconduct, but it is deeply rooted in the structural relationship of inequality between women and men. The interaction between the advocacy of women and UN initiatives was one of the main factors that led to the inclusion of this issue in the international agenda. Considerable progress has been made in the development of standards and internationally agreed criteria. Legal and policy instruments have clarified the obligations of States to prevent, eradicate and punish violence against women, but around the world, states still do not meet international legal and policy requirements.

The cause of violence against women lies in the unequal power relations which, historically, have existed between the genders. Patriarchal disparities of power, discriminatory cultural norms and economic inequalities deny women their human rights and perpetuate violence. Violence against women is one of the principal means by which men control the freedom of women and their sexuality.

There are many forms of violence against women: physical, sexual, psychological and economic. Some increase while others fade over



L-R: Nicole Thurner, WFWPI UN Intern; Dr. Amiira Neff, WFWPI UN Representative, WFWPI Member

demographic change, economic recovery and social and cultural movements. Women suffer violence in all kinds of environments: family, community, state, and armed conflict and its aftermath. Violence is a continuum in women’s lives, from birth to death, both in public life and in private life.

The most common form of violence experienced by women throughout the world is violence by a companion, which sometimes causes death. Traditional practices can also be very harmful, including early and forced marriages and mutilation and/or female genital ablation. In the community setting, femicide, sexual harassment and trafficking of women are receiving increasing attention. Violence by the State, through its agents, omission, or through national policies, can also lead to violence

Women’s Rights, contd. on pg. 12

At the UN in Vienna ...

59th Session Including Special Segment Commission on Narcotic Drugs

March 14-22, 2016 - UN Vienna

By Elizabeth Riedl

UN Vienna WFWPI Office Director

Women's Federation for World Peace International Vienna Representative, Irmgard Maentler, was one of the 1,500 International High level Government officials and Civil Society participants to attend the 59th Session. The conference began with an UNGASS* video message by H.E. Mogens Lykketoft, President of the 70th session of the UN General Assembly.

Mr. Yury Fedotov, UNODC Executive Director gave the opening address. In his address, he outlined the breadth of important resolutions that the commission was ready to consider, ranging from various aspects of the world drug problem to the prevention and treatment of drug-related disorders. With so many Member States gathered together in one place, he urged those present to consider ways in which countries could work together to strengthen international and regional drug control partnerships. The following is an excerpt from his speech:

"By encompassing issues of drugs and health, drugs and crime, human rights, security and safety, emerging challenges and sustainable development, the UNGASS process has helped to promote a more comprehensive understanding of the problems we face and, I hope, encouraged a greater appreciation of the challenges faced by all countries and regions. Our global approach to the world drug problem must be inspired by many local priorities. We

are all in this together. The UNGASS process has emphasized the shared responsibilities stemming from illicit drugs. These include the dangers of opiate production and trafficking from Afghanistan; the fragility of regions including West and East Africa; deadly violence in Central America; the growing nexus of organized crime groups and violent extremists profiting from the illicit drug trade; and the never-ending proliferation of new psychoactive substances.

Crucially, the UNGASS process has put the focus on the lives lost and the needless suffering caused by the world drug problem. Globally, some twenty-seven million people suffer from drug use disorders, including twelve million people who inject drugs. Almost two hundred thousand people lose their lives each year as a result of overdose and other drug-related medical conditions. Some thirteen per cent of the people who inject drugs are infected with HIV, compared with less than one per cent among the general population. The incidence of hepatitis C among people who inject drugs exceeds fifty per cent. However, evidence-based prevention, treatment and rehabilitation remain at very low levels of coverage in many parts of the world.

Under the drug control conventions, State Parties have committed to ensuring that access to controlled narcotic and psychotropic substances to relieve pain and suffering is not unduly restricted, while recognizing the need to prevent abuse, misuse and diversion. Yet three-



quarters of the world's population have little or no access to such medicines. Our partners at the World Health Organization (WHO) estimate that each year, 5.5 million terminal cancer patients and one million end-stage AIDS patients suffer needlessly. The UNGASS process has helped to raise awareness of this continuing global health problem, and the need to put people first when developing responses.

Moreover, it has helped to put the spotlight on considering, in appropriate drug-related cases of a minor nature, including possession for personal consumption, alternatives to conviction or punishment, using such measures as education, aftercare, rehabilitation and social reintegration. This can further help to address prison congestion and prevent the recruitment of vulnerable individuals in detention by hard core criminals and even terrorists.

The UNGASS discussions have also highlighted the issue of the death penalty. A number of General Assembly resolutions have called for the abolition of, or a moratorium on, the use of the death penalty. Its application for drug related offences has never been in the letter or the spirit of the drug control conventions."

* UNGASS, or The United Nations General Assembly Special Session, is a meeting of UN member states to assess and debate global issues such as health, gender, or in this case, the world's drug control priorities



Access to Education and Security for Refugee Children, Women & Youth "Leaving No One Behind"

April 13, 2016 - UN Vienna

By Jana Lajdova

The conference was hosted by the WFWPI Europe and brought together experts from various NGOs from the political and cultural fields. The conference created the platform through which to share each other's views and experiences in working for the improvement of the refugee education situation in Europe and around the world.

The conference was divided into four sessions, entitled Inclusive Education Field Reports and Interventions, Access to education for refugee children: Policy, practice and commitment, Global Quality Education for Global Citizenship – A Call to Action, and Education and Global Citizenship. There was a coffee break in the middle of the session which afforded participants an opportunity to network and share some personal time with each other.

The content and order of the topics was well-balanced in this event. The speakers were

very inspiringly shared, with open hearts, about their efforts to make this world a better place for refugees. All of the speakers shared about their work and experience with great passion.

Particularly interesting was the presentation by Saheeb Majida, a youth education ambassador who spoke in the third session. He spoke very honestly about how we, citizens of rich countries, often take our blessings for granted while there are people who do not even have a roof over their heads. He emphasized

the integral roles of awareness and education in changing the present state. His talk was followed by a graduation ceremony of Youth Education Ambassadors. Nineteen young people received certificates for participating in voluntary youth work around the world.

The conference concluded with some talks on global citizenship. One of the final speakers mentioned that changing the world requires passion, not just the sharing of knowledge. This event brought together many passionate people and hopefully they can continue to work passionately together for a good cause.



Activities Around the World: Kenya & Thailand

Women's Federation for World Peace, Kenya Celebrates International Day of the Girl Child

October 31, 2015

WFWP, Kenya held the commemoration of the International Day of the Girl Child at the Kayole Girls Rehabilitation Center in Nairobi on October 31, 2015. This commemoration was inspired by the United Nations General Assembly which, on December 19, 2011 adopted Resolution 66/170 to declare the 11th October as the International Day of the Girl Child to recognize girls' rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world.

The event in Kenya was attended by various community leaders, leaders of various NGOs

and CBOs, as well as representation from two girls' schools.

The significance of the day was explained by Mrs. Anne Ketuny and the main address was given by Mrs. Susan Kone, the Chairperson of WFWP Kenya and the IVP for Africa

The entertainment was provided by the girls' rehabilitation center, St. Thaddeus Child Care Society School, Strength of a Woman CBO and various other youth groups.

It was a happy event and the girls participated in cutting the cake and they each received

sanitary towels donated by the WFWP Kenya. This event was an opportunity to educate guests on the vision of the Founders of WFWP.

The Director of the Kayole Girls Rehabilitation Center, Mr. David Arika, concluded the event by thanking WFWP for hosting and for the kind donations provided for the girls. The event was attended by 153 guests.



Women's Federation of World Peace, Thailand Celebrates International Children's Day

November 20, 2015

Color My Heart with Peace, a project of the Women's Federation for World Peace, Thailand, aims to encourage children to develop, by promoting their creativity and imagination. The focus is to encourage children to use their free time to contribute to society. Each year, WFWP, Thailand organizes an awards ceremony for the winners of a drawing contest which is held annually to coincide with and commemorate the UN's International Children's Day.

This year WFWP, Thailand organized its 11th drawing competition, aimed at creating an awareness of the environment. 416 students competed. The drawing contest was divided into two age groups

1. Ages 4-6 on the topic "Water conservation forest loves the world."
2. Ages 7-10 on the topic "Protecting the environment with love."



Young Women Leaders

WFWPI's 1st Annual Young Women Leaders Retreat

March 18-20, 2016 - New York

By Krista Smith and Rebecca Ward

Twenty-one young women representing eight countries and nine WFWPI leaders from four of the seven WFWPI regions gathered together in New York City for Women's Federation for World Peace, International's first annual Young Women Leaders Retreat. It was an honor to have WFWPI President, Prof. Yeon Ah Moon, participate in the entire retreat, which spanned from Friday night through Sunday night, and featured a packed schedule of lectures and activities. The group size was capped at thirty in order to foster an intimate setting in which participants could absorb the educational materials and connect to and empower one another to further the work and vision of WFWPI.

The retreat took place during the weekend between the two weeks of the 60th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW60). Many of the retreat participants had already been in the city for several days, participating in CSW60. A two-week annual event, CSW offers participants a rich, diverse array of events, in the UN as well as throughout the city, hosted by UN member states and NGOs.

The retreat opening dinner was held on Friday, March 18. After a brief introduction to

house in Queens. For this trial year, two large houses were rented out through Airbnb.

Saturday morning participants ate breakfast in their houses in Queens and then returned to Manhattan for a day rich with education and empowerment. Dr. Padmini Murthy, a medical doctor who serves on the Executive Committee of NGO CSW NY, kicked-off the morning with a talk entitled, "Women as Advocates Rock the World." In her lecture, she gave many examples of women throughout history who have made significant impact through advocacy. The second speaker was Dr. Thomas Ward, Dean of the College of Public and International Affairs at the University of Bridgeport. He gave a clarifying overview of the history and founding of the United Nations. The third speaker, Mr. Donald Lee from the UN Department of Public Information (DPI), gave a talk on the importance of the new Sustainable Development Goals and the impact of such goals on the future of the world. Following this session, the group broke for lunch.

The afternoon talks began with a panel discussion, led by Dr. Amalle Daou, a medical doctor whose husband was the former Ambassador from Mali to the UN. She is the president of an NGO called Active Intervention for Mothers (AIM). She pulled together a



Day 3: Visit to Presidential Library of Franklin D. Roosevelt And Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

Following the panel was a session on advocacy by Ms. Majandra Acha, with the Women's Environment and Development Organization. Participants were given the advocacy manual, a publication by NGO CSW NY. The speaker guided participants through the most important and challenging aspects of advocacy. The final presentation, given by Mrs. Lynn Walsh, co-chair of the NGO Committee on the Family, was an anecdotal exploration of the speaker's journey to her current position within the UN. Following the final lecture, the MC, Ms. Teresa Ferrette, member of the Board of Directors of WFWP, USA, led the group in a short review of the day during which



Day 1: Welcome Dinner & Introductions



Day 2: Panel Discussions & Lectures



Day 3: Visit to Roosevelt Library, Hyde Park NY



the weekend by Mrs. Alexa Ward, International Vice President and Deputy Director of the UN Office for WFWPI, participants enjoyed a buffet-style dinner. Following the meal, each participant introduced herself to the group by sharing a bit about her background as well as one fun fact. After introductions, participants divided up into two groups, each bound for a



panel of herself, Mrs. Mamie Thompson, an international educator, and Ms. Yiling Li, President of UCT International Culture Development Organization. The three engaged in a discussion entitled, "The Diplomatic Side of Life," and shared insights from their various diplomatic roles and experiences.



participants shared about lessons learned and key takeaways. Participants were then given a free evening to explore NYC and get to know one another.

On Sunday morning participants left bright and early to travel to Hyde Park, NY to visit

Young Women Leaders, contd. on pg. 9

At the UN in Bangkok

International Women's Day Celebration 2016

Empower ASEAN by Women

March 8, 2016 - Bangkok

Mrs. Kamoltip Payakvichien, President of the Women's Federation for World Peace, Thailand, attended the International Women's Day event in Bangkok together with three WFWP Thailand board members. The event was organized by the National Council of Women of Thailand and was held in the organization's auditorium in Ban Manangkhasila. The Women's Federation for World Peace, Thailand is a corporate member of the National Council of Women of Thailand, which is under the Patronage of Her Majesty the Queen of Thailand.

During the event, the struggle which women have undergone in order to attain equality, development and peace was celebrated and commemorated. A flag ceremony was held in which each member organization carried

its own flag. Following the ceremony, a discussion took place between the ambassadors, representatives and some business experts from the ASEAN countries. The event was a great success and WFWP Thailand was honored to participate.



Int'l Women's Day Celebration in Bangkok



Mrs. Kamoltip Presenting the WFWP Flag



Mrs. Kamoltip and 3 WFWP Thailand Board Member

Culture & SDGs, contd from pg. 2



Cynthia Shibuya spoke on the value of preserving and appreciating the cultures of others as well as the culture of one's ancestors. Expressing interest and appreciation in another's culture creates an underlying, unifying factor in a new relationship, she shared. This approach would go a long way toward creating a unifying atmosphere during peace negotiations. There is great history and heart tied up in culture which makes it so precious.

Ms. Asrat spoke passionately about cultural traditions practiced in the family as a key factor in preserving culture. In these modern times, many families are particularly concerned with how to pass on their culture and traditions to future generations. To that point, Ms. Asrat shared that if children experience warmth and love in their family as traditions are practiced while growing up, they will often continue those traditions in their own families.

The event ended with a short question and answer segment. Although the event centered on the topic of how to achieve the SDGs through the understanding and preservation of cultures, the majority of questions were concerned with how to preserve and pass on cultural and family traditions, underlining the importance of culture and tradition and how close this topic is to the hearts of many.

Reflection on WFWPI Internship Program Geneva Final Report about the United Nations

March 2016

By Nicole Thurner

Women's Federation for World Peace International gave me the opportunity to experience the United Nations for three weeks. I was able to learn a lot and it helped me to improve my ability to have compassion for people who are in greater need than I. I also realized that I am very fortunate to live in a good environment, with people around me I can trust and love and a life that is generally more comfortable than difficult. When I look closely at what I have in my life, I cannot complain about anything and I only feel very grateful for my current situation.

The internship opened my eyes to a different world which I was not seen before the internship. It widened my perspective on different races and cultures which I didn't understand before.

It was striking to look inside myself and to realize that I lived a very ignorant life so far. I only cared about my own situation, my career, my family, and my future. But what about the future of those who never had the freedom of choice for a brighter future? Can we really consider ourselves human beings if we just look out for our own happiness and success?

I learned that the United Nations has a clear vision, as expressed in the Sustainable Development Goals. I was reflecting a lot on those goals, especially since Mrs. Carolyn Handschin told me that we first need to understand, how we can "sustain" something.

She said, "Co-prosperity is when the desire of each citizen is for the prosperity of the other. That is the only guarantor of sustained prosperity. ... Is it possible to make transformative and lasting change? We often

look for complicated answers, when the solution is simple, based on nature, ecology. If we want a 'Human Family' where no one would be left behind, we need to cultivate that sense of empathy and concern for others."

My hero during this whole time was three-time Nobel prize nominee, Dr. Denis Mukwege from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Understanding and seeing what he is doing touched my heart very much. He is not only a doctor but is taking care of the emotionally destroyed girls and women in Africa. He is literally healing broken hearts and bodies.

I am grateful for all the realizations I took home with me, and I want to give a special thanks to Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, the Founder of Women's Federation for World Peace, Carolyn Handschin, and many other people who supported me throughout this time.



With Geneva Ambassador Makarim Wibisono. Former General Assembly (2000) President and HRC's Special Rapporteur on Palestine; Nicole right.

Young Women Leaders, contd from pg. 7

the home and Presidential library of Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt. At the library, the group received an animated lecture on the role of FDR in the founding of the United Nations at the conclusion of World War II, from Mr. Jeffrey Urbin, Education Specialist. After a tour through the FDR museum, the group went to Eleanor Roosevelt's home at Val-Kill cottage, where they were able to take an intimate glance into her life as well as her role as the driving force behind the creation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights while she served as chair of the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

"As a woman who suffered a great deal of loss and hardships in her childhood, Eleanor Roosevelt made sure to prepare a better future: one in which basic human rights would be acknowledged and practiced in all nations."
- Jin hee Handschin, Participant

The retreat concluded with an intimate dinner in Tarrytown, New York. Mrs. Carolyn Handschin, International Vice President and Director of the UN Office, gave a presentation on the founders of WFWPI, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, and the Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon. Prof. Yeon Ah Moon, President of WFWPI, gave closing remarks and three participants offered testimonies on their experiences throughout the weekend and on their personal journeys related to their involvement with



CSW60 Summary, contd from pg. 2

broad participation of civil society in the implementation of the SDGs. Ms. Reyes explained the structure of the Women's Major Group (WMG), and clarified the role it plays in facilitating access to the General Assembly for women. The nine members of the WMG have a voice within the General Assembly but no voting authority. The WMG facilitates the participation of women and safeguards that space. UN experts dialog with the WMG on grassroots issues involving women, so WMG members are able to impact the language used in draft and outcome documents in a variety of settings including links to financing for development and the environment. (Learn more at <http://www.womenmajorgroup.org/>). Following panelist presentations, participants of the parallel event worked in small groups to brainstorm ways to remove structural barriers



WFWPI. The tone throughout the evening was one of passing the torch; of the older generation relaying the knowledge and skills they gained and offering support to the younger generation in taking up the mantle.

WFWPI's work promotes women's responsibility in the quest for world peace. This retreat was very inspiring and insightful. It has shown us that women can play a role in today's society.
- Yuru Wang, Participant from Austria

As the first Young Women Leaders Retreat concluded amongst hugs and phone number swaps, the group took time to reflect on the weekend. Mrs. Josephine Stewart from Canada shared, "Spending the weekend with



an empowered group of women and learning about leadership on a global level and how to move forward with our goals/mission was enlightening." Ms. Yuru Wang from Austria commented, "Through this weekend I have been reminded once again how important we as young women are to the process of peace building." The staff of WFWPI hope the annual addition of this retreat will mark a new era of WFWPI, under Prof. Yeon Ah Moon's leadership, in which young leaders are nurtured and trained by the great women proceeding them.



in order to achieve peace, advance education, and protect the planet and its people.

Another notable side event, "Indigenous Women and Girls: Pathways to Equality," was co-sponsored by Canada, the Group of Friends of Indigenous Peoples, the United States, and the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. This inspiring panel of indigenous women leaders represented an important emergence of openness about the plight of indigenous women around the world and the perspectives they offer on sustainable development. The panel, moderated by Ms. Jody Wilson Raybould, included Attorney General and Minister of Justice of Canada; Ms. Chandra Roy Henriksen (of Bangladesh), Chief of the Secretariat of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; Dr. Myrna Cunningham of Nicaragua; Ms. Betty Lyons, President and Executive Director of the American Indian Law Association. This was

a profound and high profile panel in which indigenous women leaders articulated honest assessments of the tragic challenges faced by indigenous communities around the world due to treaty violations, federal governments' partnerships with corporations to violate the environment and disrespect land rights in the name of economic development, assaults on indigenous women and girls exacerbated by marginalization, and more. The panelists' testimonies were juxtaposed by the stature, clarity and determination for progress expressed by each of them.

Canada's First Lady, Sophie Trudeau, participated in the event's opening ceremony, which was a traditional Mayan ceremony conducted in order to thank ancestors and honor the feminine energy, representing the universe. As a cosponsor of the event, Canada demonstrated its commitment to the challenges

CSW60 Summary, contd. on pg. 10

CSW60 WFWPI Speakers, contd from pg. 1 Empowerment and Sustainable Development” at a parallel event sponsored by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office of New York on Thursday, March 17. She reported on the core value of the Family. She stressed that ours is a global family and as such WFWPI, Taiwan has developed three core focuses: Sound Development of Youth & Anti-Drug Abuse and AIDS Prevention education; Empowerment of Women & Family Happiness program; Networking & Altruistic Service. Her hope for the future of Taiwan and passion for WFWPI’s worldwide vision and mission was clearly felt by all in attendance.

Along with the South African Minister of Social Development, the **Hon. Bathabile Olive Dlamini, Professor Yeon Ah Moon**, President, WFWPI, and **Mrs. Alexa Ward** were honored to speak at a side event on March 18. The event was held at the Harlem State Office Building in New York, and was sponsored by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of South Africa and the NGO, **Ilitha LaBantu**, with the theme, “South African Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Historic Women’s March of 1956.” The event was moderated by Ms. **Nandi Bengu**, a member of the WFWPI UN Team in New York. Professor Yeon Ah Moon introduced WFWPI, the Founders, and the founding vision. Alexa Ward spoke about Lilian Ngoyi and Helen Joseph, two of the women

who led the march of 20,000 women in 1956 that brought light to segregation and women’s issues today. The saying, “You strike a woman, you strike a rock,” was initiated during the time of the march, and has come to represent women’s courage and strength in South Africa.

Also on March 18, **Jeanne Carroll**, a member of the WFWPI UN Team in New York, who serves as the primary WFWPI representative to NGO CSW NY, spoke on a panel sponsored by the Tabernacle Worship and Prayer Ministries, UNESCO Center for Global Education, Association of Muslim Women, and Women in Ministry Association. She spoke on the need for people of faith to bring their faith into the UN in support of the topic, “Empowerment of Women in Religion on the 2030 Development Agenda.”

Due to her long-time work in intercultural relationships, **Cynthia Shibuya**, a member of the WFWPI UN Team in New York, who has represented WFWPI with the Department of Public Information (DPI) for many years, was asked to speak on “The Importance of Understanding of Culture to Achieve the UN SDGs and Empower Women.” Mrs. Shibuya spoke on the value of preserving and appreciating the cultures of others as well as one’s own. Expressing interest in and appreciation for another’s culture creates a very unifying factor in a new relationship and also in any peace negotiation. The event was

sponsored by the National Council of Women US, and Nation to Nation Networking on Saturday, March 19.

Nandi Bengu, who represents WFWPI with DPI, represented WFWPI at a co-sponsored side event on Monday, March 21, with the Permanent Missions of Honduras, The Gambia and Indonesia, and the NGOs United Families International; the Howard Center for Family, Religion and Society; and the Universal Peace Federation. The title of the program was “Toward a Sustainable Lifestyle: Women Empowered and Families Strengthened.” Ms. Bengu moved the gathering as she spoke on the need for all children to feel loved and cherished by their fathers.

WFWPI leaders have the opportunity to become well-rounded and informed through access to a worldwide network of activities, programs and reports. As a result, they are able to speak with passion and knowledge on various topics which deeply resonate with women. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be achieved as information and service expands person to person, group to group, and NGO to NGO. Those women who represent WFWPI in their countries, as well as at the UN, are committed to achieving the SDGs, in partnership with governments and NGOs, and are committed to the realization of a world of lasting peace.



Ms. Nandi Bengu, WFWPI Representative to DPI/NGO



South African Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Historic Women’s March of 1956



New York State Senator Bill Perkins with WFWPI Leaders

CSW60 Summary, contd from pg. 9

facing indigenous women and girls through its commitment to increase gender parity, with Prime Minister Trudeau’s appointments of women to half of the cabinet positions. Additionally, in Canada, women now preside as Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Minister of Indigenous Affairs and Minister of Women, all of whom attended the side event. Canada has launched an inquiry into the unexplained murder or disappearance of over 1500 indigenous women and girls over the past 30 years. The event panelists called for a CSW priority theme of “Empowerment of Indigenous Women” to bring more visibility to the issues and challenges facing these most vulnerable communities. The panelists also emphasized success stories that resulted from determined and persistent advocacy to change chronic injustices faced by their communities. The tie between mineral extraction industries and an increase in sexual assault of women and

girls within affected communities was brought to light. The parallel between exploitation of Mother Earth and women and girls was drawn. The panelists strongly urged those in attendance to get indigenous women and girls “on the radar” of all UN agencies in order to ensure that they are not left behind on the road to implementation of the sustainable development goals. Focusing on advancement of indigenous women and girls will “raise all boats.”

As CSW60 wrapped up, delegations from Member States concluded negotiations on the final wording of the outcome document, known as the Agreed Conclusions. This document re-commits Member States to the advancement of women and girls, builds upon existing UN policy frameworks, and prioritizes addressing current and emerging issues and challenges. Mr. Andreas Glossner, Vice President of the 60th session of CSW, took time to circulate the Agreed Conclusions

to the NGO Community via the NGO CSW Executive Committee, NY. He reflected that the negotiations were tough but productive, adding, “Delegates developed a practical, implementation-focused text that produced some specific new language on pressing topics. One of the particularly strong points of the text is the language on the participation of civil society and the enabling environment needed for the achievement of gender equality.” Mr. Glossner affirmed the important contribution of the NGO CSW NY toward increasing the civil society input in the negotiations, giving civil society credit for some of the new, stronger language. (Note: Agreed Conclusions found here: <http://www2.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/60/csw60%20agreed%20conclusions%2024march.pdf?v=1&d=20160408T142735>)

The theme for CSW61 (2017): Women’s Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work.



WFWPI Parallel Event, contd from pg. 1

on females due to childbirth, with women prolonging careers and finding their value in competing with men.

Franklin cited the Journal of Genetic Psychology to point out that the availability of the mother brings more self-esteem and resilience to children as they deal with life events. If the mother is absent, children were often found to be more lonely, depressed and anxious. The presence of fathers was demonstrated to be equally important in preventing child abuse occurring in single-parent and co-habiting couple homes. The Secretary General stated that “The stability and cohesiveness of communities and societies rest on the strength of the family.” (SG Family Report 2011 A/66/62-E/2011/4). Professor Richard Wilkens of the Doha Institute found “Healthy, stable families had significant benefits for children and their parents and for society.”

Mrs. Carolyn Handschin, Director of WFWPI UN Office, in her presentation, “Can the SDGs bring us to Co-Prosperity?” applauded the SDGs for providing a framework for global thinking but emphasized the limitations in the enforcement of those goals. She suggested that co-prosperity could be achieved by people living for others, which, although not a generally practiced concept by individuals, is a practice lived out in families every day.



According to Charles Malik, “The fastest way to change a society is to mobilize the women of the world.” Only love that is inclusive and respectful of all can be the incentive to transform lives and cause people to think of the welfare of others more than their own. Dr. Denis Mukwege of the DRC, known as “The man who mends women,” was cited as a role model for viewing each of the 30,000 female victims of sexual violence that he has treated as if they were his own wife, daughter or mother. Mrs. Handschin’s presentation concluded with the observation that in order to achieve the

SDGs, governments, civil society, and families intersecting with religion and cultural spheres must work together. Families have the potential to live in a culture of peace because they were trained in a microcosm of one.

Sharon Pedrosa, Co-founder of Montage Initiative’s Student Advisory Board, gave the final presentation on “Sustainable Development in India: Women Taking the Lead.” She cited The World Commission on Environment and Development’s definition of sustainable development as “...development that meets the needs of the present without compromising their own needs.” Yet, even with changing laws, the enforcement of such laws is lagging. Pedrosa found that women in India deferred their own right to vote to their husband’s voting choice. When widowed, women only had a right to property if there were no sons. Pedrosa stressed that sustainability can only be achieved when women are valued and respected.



During the question and answer session following the presentations, middle school students in attendance from the School of Science and Technology asked some insightful questions. One young student asked, “What will make these goals a reality?” The answer given was the citation of the preamble in the GA Resolution/70/1 which states: “We are resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want to heal and secure our planet. We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed... As we embark on this collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind.”

The students were told that if all Heads of State began their cabinet meeting each day by reading the Preamble, Heads of State could take steps to meet each goal and target. Those present realized that among the youth, there might emerge some who could, from the day’s inspiration, be impacted to make the SDGs a reality.



WFWPI Parallel Event Audience



WFWPI Parallel Event Panel



WFWPI Parallel Event Question & Answer Session



Professor Yeon Ah Moon, WFWPI President



Prof. Yeon Ah Moon addressing WFWPI Dinner Gala



WFWPI Dinner - Opportunity Music Project Performance

**WFWPI Dinner Gala
Celebrating CSW60**

March 16, 2016 - 4 West 43rd Street, New York City

WFWPI’s International President, Professor Yeon Ah Moon, hosted an evening, celebrating CSW60, with 100 guests from more than a dozen nations. Speakers from WFWPI’s CSW forum, UN and NGO friends, as well as WFWP leaders and guests, joined the gala.

In her welcoming remarks, Prof. Yeon Ah Moon remarked on the passion of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, co-founder of WFWPI, for raising and educating youth and preparing them for leadership roles. In addition, Professor Yeon Ah Moon commented on the greater involvement of young men and women in this year’s CSW. Mrs. Nora Spurgin, founding president of WFWP, USA, emphasized the necessity for

mature leaders to bequeath their foundation to the next generation.

Entertainment was provided by Raoul Joseph, Steve Honey, and Jessica Garand’s Opportunity Music Project. The beautiful Seiko Lee impacted the audience with her nightingale voice. The favorite moment of the gala event voiced by one of the participants was when everybody present held hands in a circle and sang “Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me,” bringing a warm and touching close to a lovely evening. It was a take-away moment to cherish and a reminder that peace indeed begins with each one of us.



EMPOWER TO ERADICATE POVERTY

Support the efforts of WFWPI volunteers worldwide...



Women's Federation for World Peace Int'l
4 West 43rd Street
New York, NY 10036, USA

- Make checks payable to WFWP International or
Donate Online -

WFWPI is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization

Since 1994 WFWP has dispatched volunteers worldwide, to implement development assistance projects based on local needs.



For more information about projects,
see Biennial Reports at
www.wfwp.org

HRC Mainstreaming, contd from pg. 3

noteworthy and he pledged the resources of his agency to implement the aims, especially in the fight against violence against women and the collection of development-related data.

Mr. Yannick Glemarec, Deputy Executive Director of UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, said that gender equality is a critical addition to the Development Targets and that States have a primary responsibility "for its achievement." Human Rights instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, will also be an important ally for success.

The final speaker was Mr. Jan Beagle, Deputy Executive Director of UNAIDS. "Shrinking space for civil society and lack of funding is having a negative impact on fighting HIV/AIDS." As a final remark, he referred to the "Rights Up Front Initiative," mentioned several times during the panel and ensuing discussions, which, created in 2013, seeks to mainstream preventive thinking and action across the board at the UN. Consisting of 5 Action Steps, this project is intended to complement governments' responsibilities by consolidating assessment and strategizing about potential future risks and violations of human rights.

As a general comment about the interactive debate that followed, there was a near unanimous call for strengthening lines of communication and cooperation within and between UN entities, governments and civil society actors in order to meet the 2030 targets- on which the success will depend upon the seriousness of well-defined goals and recommendations in that area. An atmosphere of high expectation and consensus pervaded.



Women's Rights, contd from pg. 4

against women. The high incidence of violence against women in armed conflict, particularly sexual violence, including rape, has gradually been reported on.

The results of four demographic surveys on violence against women in situations of armed conflict estimated that between 250,000 and 500,000 Rwandan women were raped during the 1994 genocide; between 20,000 and 50,000 women were raped in Bosnia during the conflict of the early 90s and about 200,000 women and girls were raped during the armed conflict that hit Bangladesh in 1971.

Physical, sexual and psychological violence can constitute the daily lot of women in their interactions with others in their neighborhoods, on public transport, in their workplaces, in schools, sports clubs, academic institutions, hospitals and other social institutions, particularly religious. Forms of violence against women and girls throughout the community include: sexual violence, sexual harassment, trafficking of women and forced prostitution.

Women who are victims of violence have a range of health problems, and their ability to earn a living and to participate in public life is diminished. Their children are more likely to have health problems, poor school performance and behavioral disturbances. The costs of violence against women, apart from the human cost, result in a reduction of economic output and training of human capital, and also lead to political and social instability resulting from an intergenerational transmission of violence.

Violence against women should be given a priority at all levels. Women do not enjoy the priority status required for the implementation of real change. Political will is essential because

it can lead to important results, but it will require a considerable investment of resources and constant assistance, particularly in least developed countries and countries emerging from conflict. A more coherent and strategic approach is needed from all actors, including governments, the international community and civil society.

Until we have a collective awareness of the role of women in society, peace will be a dream and the conflict will be our daily living."

Rights of the Child, contd from pg. 3

of cyber bullying has led to tragic loss of life and depression among young children who find themselves on the receiving end of such interactions.

For children to protect themselves and build the capacity to weigh the risks of the Internet, it is essential that parents and adults are informed and educated about the risks - and how to guard against them. To protect children from internet threats does not necessarily mean to restrict access or adopt exaggerated monitoring efforts, but a sensible process of familiarization with the web through suitable education in cooperation between parents, children and friends, which can go a long way toward protecting children on the Internet. Education within the family is a large factor for prevention. When children feel at ease and trust their parents, they will feel free to discuss any disconcerting information with their parents. Thus, it is important to maintain healthy communication and trust within the family. In support of this reasoning, WFWP emphasizes the importance of sustainable family values and healthy moral practices within the family.

Upcoming Events

- ❖ April 10 WFWP 24th Anniversary
- ❖ May 15 Int'l Day of Families
- ❖ May 23-27 25th Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention & Criminal Justice
- ❖ June 13 - July 1 Human Rights Council 32nd Session in Geneva
- ❖ Aug. 12 International Youth Day
- ❖ Sep. 13-26 71th Session of UN General Assembly
- ❖ Oct. 11-13 WFWPI 20th Women's Conference for Peace in the Middle East
- ❖ Oct. 16 World Food Day
- ❖ Oct. 17 Int'l Day of Eradication of Poverty
- ❖ Oct. 24 United Nations Day
- ❖ TBA WFWP 16th Int'l Leaders Workshop