



UN CSW61: WFWPI Parallel Event

Women Fostering Peace and Co-Prosperity: Creating Intergenerational Collaboration *sans* Arrogance

March 14, 2017 - Community Church of New York



By Krista Smith, Sungmi Orr, Nadia Hinson

The sixty-first session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61), the primary intergovernmental forum for discussing gender equality and empowerment, took place in New York City this year from March 13 to 24. This annual event is attended by member states, UN entities, and global ECOSOC accredited non-governmental organizations, many of whom hold parallel events at locations throughout the city. WFWPI hosted its parallel event on March 13 in the Assembly Hall of the Community Church of New York with more than 200 guests in attendance, including students from the Macademy School of Science and Technology in Brooklyn, New York.

The process of conceptualizing and actualizing this theme was in itself an intergenerational collaboration with a team of women ranging from young adults, who had worked with WFWPI for less than a year, to core members who have been involved since the beginning of the organization 25 years ago. The young adult team included extensive contributions from co-chairs Roudabeh Jamshid Eini and Krista Smith, WFWPI Administrator Christina Lange, Jennifer Carroll, Dustin Knoblauch and Awele Ugele, with support from Jeanne Carroll, WFWPI representative to NGO CSW New York, and Alexa Ward, Director of the WFWPI

UN Office in New York. The team decided unanimously to create an event that would be set apart by candid honesty and an opportunity for discussion rather than a rehearsed or scripted presentation.

The event featured a panel of eight women representing a variety of professional backgrounds and ages. The discussants included: Jeanne Carroll; Kamolthip Payakvichien, President of WFWP, Thailand; Jin Hee Kim, a senior attorney in Cravath's Corporate Department; Anastasia Vasilieva, an employee with Ernst & Young; Je-ok Presser, who works with NGOs concerning women's issues; and first-year college student Maryam Farooq, an advocate and youth volunteer.

The program was designed as a discussion with Roudabeh introducing and initiating three central questions to which the discussants responded in conversation, followed by questions from the audience. She opened with a warm greeting and words from the Co-Founder of WFWP, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. She cited words from the inaugural speech given by Dr. Moon in 1992, which petitioned women to take the lead in world peace centering on a mother's heart.

CSW61 Parallel Event, contd. on p. 10

Contents

At the UN in New York

UN CSW61: WFWPI Parallel Event-----	1
UN CSW61: Opening Session -----	2
The Water-Food Nexus Briefing -----	2

At the UN in Geneva

Angelina Jolie Urges Initiative-----	3
Family at Heart of SDGs -----	3
HRC34 Highlights -----	3

At the UN in Vienna

Zero Tolerance to FGM -----	1
-----------------------------	---

In Memorium

Elisabeth Riedl -----	4
Dr. Yvonne von Stedingk -----	12

Conferences

20th Middle East Conference -----	5
22nd International Year of the Family -----	5

Support Strategic Initiatives

Albania -----	6
Philippines -----	7

Special Report

WFWPI 25th Anniversary -----	9
------------------------------	---

Young Adults

Horizon Summit -----	11
Heram Taiwan -----	11

Upcoming Events

Zero Tolerance to FGM

March 27, 2017 - UN, Vienna

By Marinela Stefanc, Elisabeth Cook, Mary Hinterleitner

Despite considerable effort to raise awareness of female genital mutilation (FGM) for decades, it continues to exist. Countries of origin indicate a slow decrease, while western communities indicate an increase due to the influx of immigrants. This year's conference came about because of a young FGM victim who won the hearts of all present when she shared her powerful story at last year's annual "WFWP Young Women's Speech Contest" in London.

The 8th Vienna Global Citizen Education Conference with the Global Women's Peace Network was opened by Mrs. Carolyn Handschin, UN Office Director of WFWPI,

FGM, contd. on p. 4



Vision Statement

Women working together to realize one global family rooted in a culture of sustainable peace.



Mission Statement

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

Carolyn Handschin - *Editor-in-Chief*

Yeon Ah Moon - *Publisher*

Sungmi Orr - *Editor, Layout & Design*

Christina Lange - *Distribution*

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

Contact Information

New York, USA: unoffice@wfpw.org

Geneva, Switzerland: c.handschin@wfpw.org

Vienna, Austria: renate.amesb@gmail.com

Find us on the Web @ www.wfpw.org

At the UN in New York ...

UN CSW61: Opening Session

March 13, 2017 - UN, New York



By Jeanne Carroll

The 61st session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61) was held in New York City from March 13 to March 24. Over 9,000 women registered worldwide to attend UN Women's yearly event.

Each year, the CSW maintains three themes. This year's priority theme was "Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work." The agreed conclusions of the fifty-eighth session were the basis of the Review Theme, "Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls." The Emerging Focus area for CSW62 is the empowerment of indigenous women.

While Member States sponsored numerous events within the UN proper, NGOs representing civil society worldwide held over 350 events throughout the city.

The opening session was chaired by H.E. Mr. Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, Representative of Brazil to the UN. He warmly welcomed all in attendance and continued on to support gender equality and encouraged women worldwide to keep women's issues at the forefront of their nation's attention.

It was a pleasure to be greeted by the newly elected Secretary-General, António Guterres, who gave his unwavering support of women worldwide. He stressed three points: gratitude

Opening Session, contd. on p. 8

The water-food nexus: Tackling water scarcity in the context of sustainable development

January 25, 2017 - UN, New York

By Roshan D'Souza

The keynote speaker, Dr. Pasquale Seduto, FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) Strategic Programs Coordinator of the Near East and North Africa (NENA) gave a presentation on the water-food nexus in the context of sustainable development.

FAO has developed a common vision for sustainable food and agriculture with five strategic objectives. In mapping out these objectives, 15 of the 17 SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) will be impacted by water scarcity with focus on goal 6 and food, with focus on goal two: zero hunger. There is a strong and inextricable link between food and water. The consumption of water, per person, per day, is 2-4 litres. Domestic usage is 40-400 litres (increases with the use of a swimming pool), and food is 2,000-5,000 litres. With a projected population of 9 billion people by 2050, this would mean a global 50% increase in food and water consumption. In other words, 1 litre per 1 kilocalorie, 70% for agriculture, 20%

industry and 10% for urban centers. Limited arable land, fresh water, biodiversity and an increased population contribute to further water scarcity.

Agriculture, as the largest freshwater user and consumer of all sectors of society (with about 85% withdrawal), needs to boost efficiency and productivity to keep economic and social sustainability. Agriculture contributes 15% of the gross domestic product (GDP) and provides jobs and income for about 40% of the population, enabling peace and stability in the NENA region. Some solutions to water scarcity are to augment availability of water by harvesting rainfall, non-conventionally treating water for sanitation and health, desalination of ocean water and re-directing water over transboundary lines. Reduction of food losses can be facilitated through reducing obesity (1,400 million people are overweight and 1.5 billion people are obese), prepared food distribution and promoting sustainable diets.

Moroccan agricultural contribution of 15% of GDP and 40% of employment indicates heavy reliance on rainfall and agriculture, with 70% of small-scale farmers. Arable land uses 85% of water availability, 12% for public support and 3% for industry.

Kazakhstan is a landlocked and water-dependent country with environmental pollution. There is a 50% loss of water from the drying up of rivers and that, together with the shrinking of the Aral seas, is an environmental disaster that affects ecosystems. Water management is needed for 60 million livestock. Two out of three million citizens move to urban areas and cities.

The Water Scarcity Initiative, part of FAO's Strategic Program for sustainable food production, identified NENA as a central priority of Member States to cope with some of their most demanding challenges. They include the expanding gap between availability

Water-food nexus, contd. on p. 8

At the UN in Geneva ...

34th Session of the UN Human Rights Council: Sergio Vieira de Mello Foundation Lecture

Special Envoy Angelina Jolie Urges Initiative

March 15, 2017 - UN, Geneva



By Michael Handschin

In the context of the 34th Human Rights Council, Special Envoy for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Angelina Jolie, delivered the annual Sergio Vieira de Mello Foundation Lecture. She urged all participants to strengthen their commitment to

diplomacy and to the United Nations.

This annual lecture, which is held around the 15th of March, is dedicated to pursuing the ideals and continuing the unfinished mission of Sergio Vieira de Mello, who worked for the UN for over 34 years. He earned respect and praise around the world as a highly effective humanitarian leader and was considered a likely candidate for UN Secretary-General before his death in 2003. Sergio, along with 21 of his UN colleagues and associates, was killed in the bombing of the UN Headquarters in Bagdad.

BBC's Lyse Doucet chaired this year's lecture, starting off with a brief introduction to Sergio's legacy. She then introduced the keynote speaker, Angelina Jolie, and the current High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi,

who mainly served as a discussant to Jolie's speech.

Angelina Jolie, while famously known as the successful Hollywood actor and director, represented UNHCR as a Goodwill Ambassador from 2001 to 2012. The UNHCR recognized her hard work and appointed her Special Envoy in 2012. She has dedicated many years to the UNHCR and the cause of refugees in the world. Whilst most of her work focused primarily on the refugee crisis, her special address at this year's Sergio Vieira de Mello Foundation Lecture focused on a larger problem at hand: a world of imbalance.

Her speech, entitled "The Defense of Internationalism," served as a reminder of the

Angelina Jolie, contd. on p. 8

Photo Exhibit & Inter-Sessional Seminar Family at the Heart of Sustainable Development Goals

June 23, 2016 - UN, Geneva

by Carolyn Handschin

Member states of the "Core Group of the Family Initiative" in Geneva sponsored a photo exhibition at the Palais des Nations from February 23 to March 2. The theme was, "The Family is at the Heart of the United Nations," referring to the centerpiece of the large, colorful tapestry that has hung on the wall of the Security Council Chambers in New York since 1952. Its message of hope unites justice, truth, human progress and a UN-led future peace by the nuclear family.

The Geneva exhibition featured nearly 30 photos from around the world, highlighting the

role that families play in global efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. HE Ambassador Yury Ambrasevich of Belarus, HE Ambassador Amr Ramadan of Egypt and HE Ambassador Alexy Borodavkin of the Russian Federation presided over the opening ceremony, with the support of the Permanent Missions of Bangladesh, China, Cote d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Mauritius, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Uganda.

In addition, on February 23rd, as called for in the most recent "Protection of the Family" Resolutions, A/HRC/RES/32/23, adopted on July 1st, 2017, a full-day inter-sessional



Family & SDGs, contd. on p. 8

34th Session of the UN Human Rights Council Highlights

February 27 - March 24, 2017 - UN, Geneva



By Michael Handschin

The 11th President of the Human Rights Council, Joaquín Alexander Maza Martelli, welcomed the largest gathering of dignitaries in the Council's history to the 34th Human Rights Council in Geneva. The HRC's annual session debuted on February 27 and ended March 24. This month-long council yielded nine panel discussions, over 130 considered reports under

the various items in the Council's agenda, and more than 250 side events held by member states and NGOs.

Notable highlights of the HRC34 included the three-day high-level segment, the annual report on the global human rights situation, the President of the General Assembly's address, and the newly appointed United Nations Secretary-General's speech.

The three-day high-level segment featured over 130 senior State representatives, including two heads of state, 61 ministers, and around 32 vice-ministers. H.E. Mr. Didier Reynders, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium, H.E. Ms. María Angela Holguín, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, H.E. Mr. Mikheil Janelidze, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, H.E. Mr. Faiez Mustafa Serraj, President of the

Presidency Council of the Government of National Accord of Libya, and H.E. Mr. Isaque Chande, Minister of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs of Mozambique, were some of the dignitaries who delivered statements during the session's high-level segment.

On March 8, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, provided the session with a noteworthy assertion: the rights in human rights law are, and must be applied, universally. The principles of non-discrimination, he explained, are enshrined in the United Nations Charter in the second paragraph of the Preamble and human rights should be viewed as "the necessary starting condition." He noted the increasing numbers of people who now "know they have a right to development, to decent food, water, health,

HRC34 Highlights, contd. on p. 8

At the UN in Vienna ...

FGM, contd. from pg. 1



who explained that FGM breaks trust between parents and children, future leaders and their communities. This very complex and traumatic practice needs to be eliminated sensibly within the framework of restoring dignity within families and the development of communities.

H.E. Mr. Leigh Turner, British Ambassador to Austria and Permanent Representative to the UN in Vienna, gave the keynote speech. Mr. Turner stated that gender equality is a top priority in the UK and the SDGs are a necessary tool but need to be implemented. Policies are required to encourage equality and end violence against women and girls. The UK has invested £35 million in a program to end FGM within one generation and enable women and girls to live in a world free of violence.

H.E. Dr. Christine Stix Hackl, Permanent Mission to the UN from Austria, stated that the practice of FGM deprives women and girls of sovereignty over their bodies; it is child abuse with serious physical and psychological consequences that hinder female development. Austria has been involved in stopping FGM both nationally and internationally.

Mag. Alexandra Grasl, Vice-chair of the Women's Health Department for the city of Vienna, stated that FGM is human violation of women and girls, frequently causing high-risk births. Mag. Grasl explained that local communities and governments play an important role, and how a Vienna hospital provides information for migrant Arabic and African women affected by FGM.

Session 1 - Zero Tolerance to FGM
Chairperson, H.E. Olga Algayerova, Permanent Representative of Slovakia to UN Vienna

Ms. Valentine Nkayo, Moyatu Foundation, a Kenyan FGM survivor, addressed the same issue at WFWP's conference in Bratislava in November 2016. She described her move to Nottingham for her studies in 2014, and the lack of support for FGM survivors. She started an initiative, which now has members from 29 countries who hold monthly meetings to raise awareness of FGM and train health professionals. Partnerships have been set up with local MPs, police, refugee forums and schools to train young people and teachers. A survivors club has been set up to offer a safe place for women. The sheriff of Nottingham and Ms. Nkayo, who have been invited to

address international conferences, will speak in Kenyan cultural and sport festivals.

Ms. Jackie Morris, Sheriff of Nottingham, met Ms. Nkayo at an African culture event. Ms. Nkayo shared her personal experience of FGM with the Sheriff, who was so moved that she determined to work to end the practice. She took a personal approach to the issue from the perspective of a mother and grandmother to end this child mutilation by educating parents and children. This led Nottingham City to declare zero tolerance of FGM and the practice has since been outlawed in the UK. She advised those dealing with the issue in Europe to avoid punishment and incarceration for family members whenever possible, but to use the threat of legal action as a deterrent.

Councillor Anja Hagenauer, Deputy Mayor of Salzburg, who has worked for women's integration for 25 years, stated that FGM is also a problem in Europe, Austria and Salzburg. She was recently confronted by a concrete case of a 10-year-old Somali girl who went to her country of origin over school vacation and returned "very different." The girl's teacher was finally persuaded to report the situation to the police. This experience and possibilities for prevention motivates her to have Salzburg declare zero tolerance to FGM.

Zhannat Kosmukhamedova, Prog. Officer, Gender+HIV, Law Enforcement + HIV, South Europe/Central Asia-UNODC, outlined the work of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, especially for women. While not working directly on FGM, there are many crosscutting issues that affect vulnerable girls and women. She raised the topic of SDG 3, "Ending the epidemic of AIDS by 2030," tuberculosis and other venereal diseases, among people using and injecting drugs.

Lilly Sucharipa, President of UN Women National Committee of Austria, stated that an attack on one woman is an attack on all women and a violation of human rights. FGM continues because mothers, elders, religious leaders consider it necessary to avoid social stigmatization of their children. Laws are often not enforced due to a lack of financial resources and political will. Furthermore, illiteracy, poverty, patriarchal structures and deep stereotypes make it difficult to eradicate. Special NGOs in the field approach this topic best because they can work on the grassroots level. In Gambia, The Committee on Traditional Practices organized a two-year program for 300 women, of whom 64% declared they would never practice FGM. The Permanent Mission of Kenya criminalizes FGM and failure to report it. In Vienna, approximately 2,000 women with FGM must give birth by Caesarian section.

Session 2 - FGM by 2030
Chairperson Mrs. Carolyn Handschin, UN Office Director of WFWPI

Mr. Mamadou Kone, MES, Mali, Aktion Regen, introduced his initiative, which uses knowledge as a preventive tool against FGM. They train health personnel and cooperate with eight local Malian NGOs, community leaders, elected officials and local media to teach people about the consequences of FGM through lectures, home visits, counseling in villages and radio broadcasts in a language people understand. They also clarify the false concept that FGM prepares girls for acceptance in society. Other innovative activities include handcrafts and a film detailing the consequences of FGM.

Mag. Marijana Grandits, Academic Coordinator, Vienna Master of Arts in Human Rights, Vienna University, recalled her first encounter with FGM through a Senegalese dancer. She recounted legal initiatives made through Human Rights in a top-down approach, but stated that a multidisciplinary, holistic and bottom-up approach to change attitudes towards stereotypes and racism is preferable. She cited a recent study in Ethiopia that indicated that university-educated fathers advocated FGM for their daughters due to deep-rooted traditions and concluded that while women need empowerment, men need education.



FGM, contd. on p.10

In Memorium

Elisabeth Riedl



Since the founding of WFWPI in 1992, Elisabeth dedicated herself to the work of supporting the mandates of the United Nations through the empowerment of women and youth. She was a woman of courage and integrity who inspired so many. Her leadership and friendship will be missed, but her spirit will continue to influence those whom she has so deeply touched.



Conferences

20th Annual Women's Conference for Peace in the Middle East

Youth and Family: Key to transforming the Middle East and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

October 11-14, 2016 - Larnaka, Cyprus



By Carolyn Handschin

Since 1997, WFWPI has held an annual conference on women's contribution to peace in the Middle East, inviting women leaders from throughout the region and representatives of governments, UN agencies and civil society. They are occasionally held in UN premises and cover topics related to UN mandates, with as

many as 180 participants in attendance. The conference is sponsored by WFWP-Japan.

For the 20th anniversary in 2016, amid safety concerns, the conference was held in Cyprus. The theme was “Youth and Family: Key to transforming the Middle East and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.” Some of the discussions included: “Women and the complex challenges of security;” “ME Youth, aspirations and needs;” “SDGs and their impact in the ME;” and “New social activism, engaging youth for 'Global Family' through the fulfillment of the SDGs.” Speakers included representative of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon and former UN Rights of the Child Committee member, academics, lawmakers, government, business and NGO leaders.

In recent years, WFWPI has prioritized the involvement of young women in peace

work. Their perspectives on needs assessment, planning and design of programs, advocacy toward policymakers and the implementation of conference outcomes have been found to be highly innovative and insightful. Building on each year's event, networking and cross-border projects are continuing to take place.

The Cyprus Declaration is available online at www.wfwp.org.



22nd Anniversary of the UN International Year of the Family

Supporting Resiliency in Refugee Families

November 4, 2016 - ONE UN New York Hotel



By Sungmi Orr & Alexa Ward

In commemoration of the 22nd Anniversary of the UN International Year of the Family, WFWPI and the Universal Peace Federation sponsored a forum, “Supporting Resiliency in Refugee Families,” which was held on November 4, 2016, at the ONE UN New York Hotel, across from the UN Headquarters.

The first session, “Setting the Framework,” was chaired by Alexa Ward, WFWP International Vice President.

Mr. Ashraf El Nour, Director of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) UN Office, emphasized the need for policy makers to create “safe and orderly migration measures.” He went on to say, “It's important to also look at the implications of migration on the family.” Mr. Robert Carey, Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), US Department of Health and Human Services, added that refugee resettlement is “an international burden sharing effort” as refugees and their families strengthen our community and our nation as a whole. The vetting process for applicants is both stringent and time-consuming and can take upwards of two years

and, in some cases, more than a decade for family members to be reunited.

Dr. Rima Salah, Chair of the Early Childhood Peace Consortium, stated that refugee families can be powerful agents of change and transformation, a beacon of resiliency and hope. She continued that the United Nations has been instrumental in supporting countries hosting refugees by creating programs that are long-term, inclusive, empowering, that promote self-reliance, and help sustain family and community life among the displaced.

The forum continued with “Best Practices,” chaired by Lynn Walsh, Co-Chair of the NGO Committee on the Family. Kelly Agnew-Bajaras, Director of Refugee Resettlement at Catholic Charities in New York City, elaborated on the complexities of working with over 700 immigrants from more than 60 different countries. “Refugees are not easily categorized,” emphasized Ms. Agnew-Bajaras. “Each one has a very complicated past, hopes for the future, idiosyncrasies just like each one of us.” Her department provides critical social services, including legal assistance and cultural orientation.



Claudia Connor shared how the International Institute of Connecticut (IICONN) supports and serves refugees and immigrants in resolving the many barriers to self-sufficiency and integration that they face. The IICONN provides family-based legal services, micro loans to build credit, recruitment services, education grants and emotional healing programs for victims of torture.



The third session focused on “Personal Stories” from two refugees, and was chaired by Christina Lange, Administrator for WFWPI's UN Office. Batol Khan Mohammad, a native of Afghanistan and a graduate student at NYU, testified that Catholic Charities was instrumental in her successful integration. Despite her difficult personal history of loss, family separation and living under the Taliban regime, Ms. Khan Mohammed ended on a hopeful note, “If I can at least help one person, I'll be happy.”

Evelyn Kalangala faced similar hardships, having fled to the Congo and Benin to escape the genocide in Rwanda and eventually gained

IYF22, contd. on p.10

Support Strategic Initiatives

WFWP Founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, has been emphasizing the wisdom of investment for the future in young leaders and, more recently, in nations with a potential for appreciable development. She also stressed the importance of outside support – regional and global – for these strategic opportunities for development around the world. Over the next few editions, our newsletter will highlight these 13 nations, hoping that from amongst our readers, there may be ideas for networking and resource-sharing with these WFWP chapters. Address details are listed and they would surely be delighted to hear from you.

Albania

By Katarzyna Minollari

The Albanian chapter of WFWP was initiated in 1995. It has since created a wide network of contacts and supporters throughout society, from women politicians and NGO leaders to journalists, academics, and housewives. Albanian culture is characterized by strong family ties, openness towards others and harmony between religions. Therefore, the ideals of WFWP easily find a common ground in this country.

Over the years, WFWP-Albania has organized various activities in cooperation with local authorities, schools and other NGOs and institutions. The focus of these activities ranged from fostering a culture of peace to character education for youth.

Albania has a highly patriarchal tradition, and domestic violence is a serious social problem. For this reason, WFWP-Albania has undertaken many initiatives aimed at the prevention of violence. Various UN days have also been observed: Day of Families, Day of the Elderly, Day of Peace, and International Women's Day.

Albania is still the poorest country in Europe, with a low average income and a high level of unemployment. By mobilizing community resources, activities to support people in need have been organized. For example, collecting used clothes, which were later donated to select families. Occasional cooperation with WFWP chapters abroad allowed for larger donations. In 2003, WFWP-Austria donated a truck of clothes and other goods for families in northern Albania, and in 2011, WFWP-Japan, donated food and equipment to orphanages. Also, Japanese volunteers provided help to hospitals in the early years of WFWP.

Albanian women are hard working. They are expected to fulfill most of the domestic duties without the help of their husbands. Many of them also work professionally, juggling various responsibilities while still caring for their families. WFWP-Albania recognizes the need for grassroots activities, where women can meet, receive guidance and education, or simply relax and share. Such activities are organized regularly in several cities.

For more information, please contact Katarzyna Minollari at kasiamin@yahoo.co.uk.



Clothes collected from local community for families in need



Conference on the Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women in the City Hall of Kamza



"Educating Future Generations for a Society without Violence" Conference



Gathering on the International Day of Families in Tirana in Cooperation with the Universal Peace Federation



Volunteers during an awareness campaign against domestic violence



Promoting Achievements of Women on International Women's Day



Relaxing on a trip to the memorial of Skanderbeg, Albanian national hero



Meeting on the topic of women's health in the city of Korca

Focus on Albania & Philippines

Philippines

By Merly Christina Barlaan

WFWP was established in the Philippines in 1993 and has since played an active role in both the grassroots and national level advocating for women and nation-building, strengthening families, parental leadership paradigm, pure love education, patriotism, poverty eradication, and peacebuilding.

In 2013, WFWP-Philippines took on the challenge of providing the country with a vision of peace and prosperity amidst socio-economic instability while relentlessly working on educational programs and bottom-up social development framework to support local and national development agenda by uplifting the status of women and their families. WFWP-Philippines designed four major programs and projects.

WFWP Peace Leadership Conference for Social Development aims to forge partnership between Government, Educators, and Civil Society Sectors to promote heart-based, parental leadership models in local and national governance system.

Mothers' Hearts Network: Mothers Raising Filial Children and Patriots for the Nation is a national grassroots campaign to

provide vision, educate, inspire, and empower women to practice their role as women leaders and nation-builders by raising patriotic children, and using a feminine, holistic, soft power leadership paradigm.

Patriots of the Nation Youth Leadership Program is a holistic leadership training program that empowers youth to blossom to their fullest potential. The aim is to raise honorable future leaders and stewards of the nation by promoting the core leadership values of pure love, filial piety, and patriotism.

Peace Village Movement is a family-centered, community-driven development program intended to build model sustainable villages implementing the over-arching goals of the UN SDGs through partnership between families, international communities, and the government sector.

WFWP-Philippines has expanded its network of partners to include educational institutions, provincial and local government units, and civil society sectors. This has been achieved by providing holistic and balanced educational programs, skills training for women and youth from micro family-scale livelihood projects to long-term eco and agri-tourism social

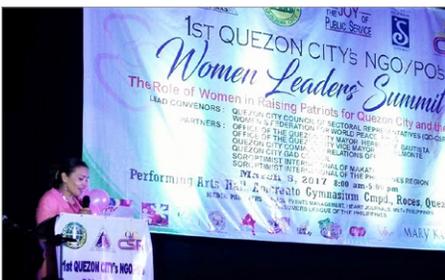
enterprises. The purpose of these programs is to empower families to become prosperous and peace-loving global citizens who transcend the barriers of poverty.

WFWP-Philippines is translating its vision into implementation by transforming the world one woman at a time.

For more information, please contact Merly Barlaan at wfwpphilippines@gmail.com.



(Left) Mr. James L. Mabilin, Director IV, Presidential Action Center. Picture taken in the Office of the President, Republic of the Philippines; (Center) Merly Barlaan, President, WFWP, Philippines; (Right) Hon. Leoncio Evasco, Jr., Cabinet Secretary, Republic of the Philippines



New York continued ...

Opening Session, contd. from p. 2

for all those working for women's equality; the empowerment of women as a vital key in a male-dominated world community; and that the UN will stand up for women's empowerment. SG Guterres concluded by imploring the audience, "We need you more than ever before."

The highlight of the opening session was an address by the Honorable Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women and Under-Secretary-General of the UN, in which she called for swift and decisive action for increased representation of women in all decision-making levels and to make the voice of women a major drive for change. She urged all to "agree to constructive impatience" in tackling the biases against women in all sectors. Her statement, "If you are a woman, you are a worker, period," drew a lively reaction.

Geneva continued ...

Angelina Jolie, contd. from p. 3

UN's purpose while highlighting several key issues that are birthing instability, disunity, and injustice in the world.

Instability, she noted, is caused by the lack of unity between citizens and their respective governments, as well as the ever-growing gap between those raised in wealthy, democratic countries and those living in war-torn, famine-stricken areas of the world. On top of that, "narrow-minded nationalism is being disguised as patriotism."

"On a global scale, the levels of conflict and lack of solutions combined with the fear of terrorism, has brought a strong sense of insecurity," she added. "The reality is that globalization has brought fast benefits to some and worsened a lot for others."

Many countries, as she pointed out, are willing to help those in need, yet do not see things through for financial reasons, lack of commitment or international leadership. "Arrest warrants are being issued, yet not implemented - other crimes ignored all together." She illustrated her point with the example of South Sudan and how it was ushered into independence by the international committee but then largely abandoned before it could successfully transition under a peaceful sovereign.

Jolie spoke strongly about the importance of taking responsibility over the things that are said and done. She urged participants to take initiative, strengthen their commitment to diplomacy and to the UN, and perhaps consider a reform of the UN that will be more effective in the future.

As a self-proclaimed internationalist and proud American, and in spirit with the ideas behind the creation of the United Nations, she

Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka highlighted the burden all women bear for unpaid labor, primarily for child and elder care. She encouraged world leaders to introduce practices to address the global pay gap and stressed that technology-enabled solutions for women cannot fully be taken advantage of with 200 million fewer women online than men.

In closing, she stressed that much work still needs to be done to eliminate violence against women, including sexual harassment at work, reproductive rights, paid parental leave, safe affordable child care services, product and service development, and women's leadership in collectives, unions, networks. She thanked civic society for its effort to educate women and girls to the possibilities of a gender-balanced world.

This year's opening session focused on hope and substantial progress for women. Over the

quoted, "a strong nation - like a strong person - helps others to rise up and be independent."

In conclusion, she made one final request. "The UN should stay true to what it stands for," referring to the UN's genesis on a basis of coming together and tackling global issues as a team.

"We need more UN, not less," Lyse Doucet reiterated after Jolie had delivered a "speech that goes beyond call of duty" in front of a room filled with world leaders, diplomats, students, and members of Sergio's family. Her full talk can be viewed at webtv.un.org.

Family & SDGs, contd. from p. 3

seminar was held in Room XVI on "The role of the family in supporting the protection and promotion of human rights of persons with disabilities."

Opening remarks were delivered by HE Sheika Hessa Khalifa bin Ahmed al-Thani, former Special Rapporteur on Disability of the UN Commission for Social Development. Thematic discussions of the day included "Roles of families as caregivers and supporters of persons with disabilities for the enjoyment of human rights" and "Challenges faced by parents and family members."

As stated in the resolution, there is concern "that the contribution of the family in society and in the achievement of Development Goals continues to be under-emphasized and in recognizing the potential of this contribution to national development and to the achievement of major objectives of every society and of the United Nations." Recognizing the important role that families play in caring for and supporting persons with disabilities, the High Commissioner and all other relevant international and regional human rights mechanisms are therefore invited

two weeks, member states with the support of several world caucuses, voted on agreed-upon conclusions that governments could take into consideration when formulating future policies. More details on these conclusions can be found at unwomwomen.org under the title "CSW61."

Water-food Nexus, contd. from p. 2

of and the demand for fresh water, accelerated degradation and depletion of groundwater resources, and prolonged droughts brought about by climate change. Demographic growth, expanding urbanization and demand for higher energy threaten food security. The FAO Program for sustainable food production is engaged in identifying the critical areas that require actions, assisting in the formulation of a regional collaborative strategy and building broad partnerships to support its implementation.

to "pay due attention in their work to the implementation by States of their obligations... to provide protection and support to the family as the natural and fundamental unit of society."

HRC34 Highlights, contd. from p. 3

housing, education and more." He implored the international community to protect that progress. "We have much to lose," said the High Commissioner.

Concerning the "bloodshed at the hands of extremist and terrorist groups," he urged the United States to conduct more anti-terror operations in accordance with international human rights and humanitarian law. While he highlighted some recent improvements in countries like Gambia, Tunisia, Uzbekistan, Greece, and China, he addressed several concerns, like religious and culture rights restrictions, increased threats against human rights defenders, and human rights violations, in other parts of the world as well. In order to fulfill the Sustainable Development Goals, he accentuated the importance of cooperation and commitment to human rights.

The 2030 Development Agenda, which envisages the end of extreme poverty, increased prosperity, empowerment of women, and climate change, was the central theme of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly.

The President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson, addressed the "growing appreciation at the international level that insufficient attention had been given to prevention," and stressed how the work of the Council was vital in creating an environment that would both sustain peace,

HRC34 Highlights, contd. on p.10

Special Report

WFWPI Celebrates 25th Anniversary

March 15, 2017 - One UN New York Hotel



By Krista Smith and Sungmi Orr

On the evening of March 15, 120 guests gathered in the Diplomat Ballroom at the ONE UN Hotel in New York City to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Women's Federation for World Peace, International and the 20th anniversary of WFWP's general consultative status with the United Nations.

The evening began with a brief welcome by emcee Mrs. Alexa Ward, International Vice President and Director of the UN Office in New York, followed by an introductory video that portrayed WFWPI's moving history over the past quarter of a century. WFWP's International President, Prof. Yeon Ah Moon, welcomed the guests with introductory remarks, passing on greetings from Co-Founder of WFWPI, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, emphasizing the foundation of motherly love and living for the sake of others to create harmony and sustainable peace. International Vice President and Director of the UN Office, Mrs. Carolyn Handschin, spoke on the history of WFWPI's status with the UN and highlighted key achievements from the work in New York, Geneva and Vienna. She thanked the former Director of the UN Office, Mrs. Motoko Sugiyama, and those who worked closely with WFWP during the founding period.



The awards ceremony began by presenting the Global Women's Peace Award to the Hon. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director

of UN Women and Under-Secretary-General of the UN. As the Executive Director was not able to attend the event, the award was received by Ms. Lopa Banerjee, Director of the Civil Society Section of UN Women.

The second recipient of the Global Women's Peace Award was Dr. Rima Salah, Chair of the Early Childhood Peace Consortium and Former Assistant Secretary General of the UN. Dr. Salah shared her personal experience as a refugee during her childhood and her later work in Palestinian camps. She emphasized the crucial role of education in the struggle of equality for women, urging everyone to join forces and "rally around the blue flag" of the UN.



The third Global Women's Peace Award was presented to the WFWP National Chapter of Japan. It was received by Mrs. Moriko Hori, President of WFWP, Japan and International Vice President, together with Mrs. Nishii, Secretary General, Mrs. Sugiyama, Mrs. Kuwabara, Mrs. Shika Nai, and Mrs. Teiko Kono, Secretary General of WFWP, Caribbean and Central America. Mrs. Hori spoke on the profound commitment of the members of WFWP-Japan and told the story of organization's beginnings in Japan. She also expressed appreciation for the consistent support of Japanese volunteers, aged 19 to 94, and their extraordinary investment around the world.



Next, Dr. Amalle Daou, Founder and President of the Active Intervention of Mothers, presented the 2017 Best Contribution to Women's Empowerment Award to Prof. Yeon Ah Moon on behalf of her organization. Dr. Daou acknowledged Prof. Moon for her selflessness and praised the work of WFWPI for its efforts to educate women and girls, support the family, and build lasting peace.

The Founder and CEO of the Afghan Institute of Learning, Dr. Sakena Yacoobi, one of the recipients of the 2017 Sun Hak Peace Prize, gave a heartwarming account of her life and work in Afghanistan, observing the confidence and resilience of women even during immense conflict and expressing her belief in the vision of WFWPI for the promotion of a world of peace.

Dr. Ki Hoon Kim, Chairman of the Universal Peace Federation of North America, concluded the program with congratulatory remarks to the award recipients and expressed his sincere love and admiration for WFWPI and its important work.

A toast and delicious dinner followed. The evening closed with entertainment from Prideswell, a band that played an engaging blend of folk music, followed by a stunning classical performance by Seiko Lee, soprano, and her daughter, Yuna Lee, flutist.



CSW61 Parallel Event, contd. from p. 1

The first question posed to the panel concerned how to spread the feeling of sisterhood in the workplace, especially in light of the stereotypical tough, female boss. Each discussant contributed a unique perspective, with Kamolthip explaining the team-oriented structure of her organization and Anastasia emphasizing the importance of providing support groups for women within an organization.

The next question addressed how the discussants have been able to balance motherhood and their professional lives. Speaking from experience, Jin Hee emphasized the achievement of balance over time in seasons of life, whereas Mamie shared about including her children in housework as team members, and Anastasia expressed that sometimes it is important to “let the ball drop” as opposed to striving for unrealistic “balance.”

The final question explored the culture and expectations of the older generation as opposed to the younger generation and potential strengths and weaknesses of each. The discussants agreed that there has been tremendous change for women in the workplace. Jeanne shared how her mother was one of many women who worked during the war effort of WWII, only to be sent home when the troops returned. Kamolthip elaborated on the intergenerational cooperation in her training program in Thailand as ancient farming practices are turned into sources of income. Maryam explained the importance of education in her family and that although her mother grew up without much education in Afghanistan, it is because of her that Maryam is pursuing a college degree.

Questions from the audience included how gender discrimination has changed, why “sans arrogance” was emphasized, and a young student asked how to address discrimination among his peers. The discussion was informative, inspirational, and thought provoking, concluding with a warm interlude for participants to network and take photos.



Co-chairs (Left) Roudabeh Jamshid Eini, (Right) Krista Smith



Students of Macademy School of Science and Technology

Vienna continued ...

FGM, contd. from p. 4

Ms. Christiane Ugbor of the African Women's Organization, Austria introduced the organisation, which was founded in 1996 to empower, integrate and strengthen African women in the fight against FGM. Ms. Ugbor listed important milestones between 1998 and 2020. Following a book presentation in 1998, an FGM Study was conducted in Austria, which led to an International FGM Conference in the UN Vienna in 2000. The Austrian Parliament passed a law prohibiting FGM in 2002, and by 2005, a counter campaign was under way, using teaching materials while taking a multilateral approach based on ethnic and religious backgrounds. A FGM Counseling Centre

was opened in Austria in 2005, and by 2009, action plans were developed to prevent and eliminate FGM in the EU. Since 2016 the EU Daphne Project, CHAT (Changing Attitudes Fostering Dialogue) has trained positive agents in communities through workshops with entrepreneurs and development agencies to prevent FGM.

Dr. Slawomir Redo, Senior Adviser, Academic Council on the UN System (Vienna, Austria) spoke on “Urban safety as FGM issue.” He expressed his concern for urban safety and the timely issue involving the dignity and integrity of women. Using the acronym FGM positively (“Focus on Girl’s Mind”) he referred to Vienna as a multicultural and pluralistic city, but highlighted the need for change in some kindergartens to allow children to experience

a multicultural environment. He referred to cases of domestic violence, rape, FGM and improper assault against girls where the attackers run free. To deal with such issues, women need empowerment through education, commencing in kindergartens where girls are treated as global citizens. He concluded that city representatives should face these challenges when working to create safer and inclusive cities.

Mrs. Handschin described a WFPW weeklong education programme in Kenya for traditional FGM surgeons, girls and their parents. Other education was offered to community elders, including religious leaders. This is an example of a best practice that is successful due to local knowledge and the recognition that each community affected receive education specific to their role. Several traditional surgeons received alternative professional training and were willing to leave their traditional work.



HRC34 Highlights, contd. from p. 3

the protection of human rights, and allow sustainable development to be implemented simultaneously. Ensuring accountability for human rights violations was emphasized on several occasions.

Finally, the UN’s newly appointed Secretary-General, António Guterres, addressed the growing disregard for human rights in the world, tackling root causes of conflict, early on and more effectively, through prevention, and the need to strengthen Member States, institutions, and civil society, by actively promoting human rights. “The challenges of today’s increasingly dangerous, unpredictable and chaotic world – the multiplication of conflicts and their interconnectedness with the threat of global terrorism and violent extremism, human rights abuses, and massive inequalities within and between States – could only be tackled if prevention was made the priority,” argued the Secretary-General.

While the HRC34 covered a plethora of themes, including the right to privacy, rights of persons with disabilities, rights of minorities, and rights of children, the issues most heavily discussed were discrimination, development (SDGs and the right to development), and refugees and migrants.



IYF22, contd. from p. 5

asylum in the USA. She expressed her hope that orientation for refugees can present a more detailed account of the challenging circumstances they will face. Ms. Kalangala started an organization that helps refugee children create responsible habits at school and at home. “We have to preach forgiveness,” she implored. “If we tell people about hatred, that’s what they will hear in their life, and the same thing will happen again.”



Young Adults

Horizon Summit

A global women's gathering on leadership and networking

March 16-19, 2017 - New York



By Nicole Thurner and Sungmi Orr

In conjunction with CSW61, WFWPI and WFWP-USA organized the Horizon Summit, a global women's gathering on leadership and networking, with three separate events over a period of four days from March 16 to 19.

On Thursday, March 16, Dr. Thomas Ward,

Co-Chair of the Research Institute for the Integration of World Thought, Member of the Executive Committee of the World University Federation, and Dean at the University of Bridgeport, gave presentations on strategic planning and peace studies. He walked the participants through the strategies used by the Women's Suffrage Movement to organize

themselves and accomplish their goals and how these practices may be applicable to the development of WFWPI.

On Saturday, March 18, participants gathered at a lovely private estate in Irvington, New York to hear from several speakers. Angelika Selle, International Vice President of WFWPI and President of WFWP, USA, began with introductory remarks. She emphasized the importance of being an example at home by practicing leadership through serving others and developing a parental heart. She urged participants to strive for a new paradigm of leadership in the world, which begins in the hearts of every person.

The next speaker was Dr. Rima Salah, a former Deputy Assistant Secretary General of the UN, as well as former member of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's High Independent Panel on Peace Operations. Dr. Salah made several important points on how NGOs need to work with governments, as they can have a profound impact on decisions affecting society. Participants were inspired by Dr. Salah's charisma and passion. An intimate discussion with the participants followed where Dr. Salah gave further insight and

Horizon Summit, *contd. on p. 12*

WFWP Young Adult Speaks at Heram Taiwan Event

Heram Taiwan CSW61 Forum Parallel Event

March 15, 2017 - Armenian Convention Center, New York



By Nicole Thurner

Heram Taiwan, the CSW61 Youth Delegation from Taiwan, sponsored a parallel event on "Tackling Misogyny and Adverse Norms for Women's Economic Empowerment." This event was initiated by Lily Lin, President of WFWP-Taiwan. The following is an excerpt of the talk given by Nicole Thurner, a WFWP youth representative from Europe, who was one of five speakers. The full version is available online at www.wfwp.org.

When do girls feel the most empowered? When they did a mistake but their role model doesn't judge them for that. When they are encouraged and believed in, especially before they give up, and when they are appreciated

because of their effort and work, when no one else recognized it.

The result of the investment the role model makes is confidence in one's own success. Girls start to believe in themselves and trust that they will achieve whatever they pursue. Positivity about oneself is the key to empowerment and through that we can become a self-moving engine. When individuals start to have faith and trust in themselves, that is when change happens.

What is the cause of misogyny?

Berit Oskar Brogaard a Danish-American doctor of philosophy writes, "In most cases misogynists do not even know that they hate women. Misogyny is typically an unconscious hatred that men form early in life, often as a result of a trauma involving a female figure they trusted. An abusive or negligent mother, sister, teacher or girlfriend can plant a seed deep down in their brain's subcortical matter."

This definition explains that we women have a responsibility too, because misogynists were not born as misogynists.

How do we want to stop misogyny?

One answer that came to my mind is by changing our behavior towards men, and it starts in the family. For example, a mother being loving and caring to the baby and child, a sister being supportive, and a wife being truthful and faithful. We forget the importance of having a loving family. For sure men have their responsibility too; to realize that they need to do something against their arrogance and hate but we as women play a crucial role in order to help them overcome and to make a change. It is a collective problem and we all need to work to fix it. There have to be women who fulfill the true role of a woman; someone who sacrifices and pioneer this new way. Someone who approaches this topic and issue differently, and even though this one woman never harmed any man before.

I realized something through the new Disney movie *Moana*. Towards the end, Moana tried to fight through the barrier of the lava monster in order to bring back the stolen heart of the goddess. But when she overcame the wall of the monster, which brought fear and destruction, she couldn't find the goddess of the islands

Heram Taiwan, *contd. on p. 12*

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 WFWPI International or Donate Online -
WFWPI is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization
More Information: Biennial Reports @ www.wfwp.org

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



Horizon Summit, contd. from p. 11

advice on how women can work together on the grassroots level and specifically in certain regions of high tension.

Dr. Karen Judd Smith, Co-Chair of the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and Founder of the NGO Academy, gave a talk on advocacy, sharing key insights from her work with the United Nations and from her Amazon Bestseller United Nations Unlocked. Dr. Smith mentioned that one important approach for success is a mindset of ongoing self-reflection for self-improvement. She asked the audience whether they see challenges as barriers or great opportunities and to question whether their motivation comes from taking from or giving to others. Dr. Smith emphasized how these assumptions and motivations are key for success and prosperity in the type of work WFWPI does.

Dr. Thomas Ward concluded the day's program with an interactive exercise that explored the concept of making mutually beneficial decisions between nations, both for the prosperity of the nation as well as for that of the world.

A brief discussion followed among the younger generation of participants on the takeaways from the day and their own role in advocacy. The general consensus among the group was that they felt a deep need to become experts in their various fields in order to influence policies and bring about the change they wish to see.

The summit continued the following day with an educational trip to the FDR Presidential Library, and the Val-Kill National Historic Site, in Hyde Park, New York to explore Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt's contribution to the founding of the UN and Eleanor Roosevelt's important role in the creation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Throughout the tour, the striking images of and quotes by Eleanor Roosevelt represented her lifelong work as a diplomat, activist, journalist, educator, party leader and "First Lady of the World." Participants left with a deeper understanding of the foundation upon which the UN was established.



Hera Taiwan, contd. from p. 11

anymore. Suddenly Moana realized that the goddess had become the monster after her heart was stolen. When Moana finally returned the monster's heart, it calmed down and it became its original self, the goddess of the islands, and brought back peace to the people.

I realized that we need to "mend the monster with love."

Misogynists are like monsters when they behave like that towards women. But that tells us that we women help men and can be like healers to them. A problem occurred with a woman has to be solved with a woman. It's a collective issue. That's why there have to be women who sacrifice and pioneer this way. WFWPI is promoting this way of living and thinking in order to bring sustainable peace.

In Memoriam

Dr. Yvonne von Stedingk



Dr. Yvonne von Stedingk was Senior Representative to the United Nations in Geneva for WFWPI from 2008 to 2017. She left this world peacefully in her sleep on March 30, 2017. Yvonne will continue to be very much loved and appreciated for her passion for human rights and refugee issues, her strength and integrity, and her dedication to the education and empowerment of youth. She will be very much missed at the UN and by her team.

Upcoming Events

- ❖ May 15 Int'l Day of Families
- ❖ May 22-26 26th Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention & Criminal Justice
- ❖ June 1 Global Day of Parents
- ❖ June 6-23 35th Session of HRC
- ❖ July 6-7 Middle East Women's Conference
- ❖ Aug. 12 International Youth Day
- ❖ Sept. 11-29 36th Session of HRC
- ❖ Sept. 12-25 72nd Session of UN General Assembly
- ❖ Sept. 21 Int'l Day of Peace
- ❖ Oct. 16 World Food Day
- ❖ Oct. 17 Int'l Day of Eradication of Poverty
- ❖ Oct. 24 United Nations Day
- ❖ Nov. 20 Universal Children's Day
- ❖ Nov. 25 Int'l Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
- ❖ Dec. 1 World AIDS Day
- ❖ Dec. 10 Human Rights Day