



WOMEN'S FEDERATION FOR WORLD PEACE INTERNATIONAL

UN CSW63 Overview

WFWP, International Participates in Annual UN Session on Women's Issues

March 10-17, 2019



Participants gather at the New Yorker Hotel for the WFWPI CSW63 Orientation

By Grace Kellett, Srishti Puri, Christina Lange

The Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI) welcomed 80 participants, including 31 young professionals, from 18 countries to New York City from March 10-17, 2019 for the 63rd Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63). WFWPI was pleased that Professor Yeon Ah Moon, recent former President of WFWP, International was able to meet with WFWP leaders during this time.

More than 300 side events and 400 parallel events addressed the priority theme for CSW63, "Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls," as well as the review theme, "Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development (agreed conclusions of the sixtieth session)." Side events are hosted by governments, and parallel events are hosted by NGOs.

In addition to attending side events and parallel events, participants had an opportunity to attend major annual events organized by UN Women and NGO CSW/NY, including Consultation Day, the Opening Session, and the annual Reception.

On Sunday, March 10, several WFWPI leaders and guests attended Consultation Day, which was hosted by NGO CSW/NY and held at the Tribeca-Performing Arts Center. One of the highlights of the event was a conversation between **Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka**, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women and **H.E. Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason**, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the UN and Bureau Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women. They exchanged thoughts on the challenges and goals related to the priority theme.

On the morning of Monday, March 11, **Ms. Shova Gyawali**, Director of Nepal Republic Media, attended the Opening Session of CSW63 representing WFWPI. In the afternoon, **Honorable Christian Bolos**, Provincial Legislator from Bohol Province, Philippines, attended a Ministerial Roundtable representing WFWPI.

The annual Reception hosted by NGO CSW/NY was held in the Grand Ballroom of the New Yorker Hotel on the evening of Tuesday, March 12. This elegant evening of networking, entertainment, and inspirational

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VISION

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

MISSION

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

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

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UN HQ in New York

WFWPI Parallel Event at CSW63

The Family and Social Protection

March 13, 2019 - 4 West 43rd Street, New York City



CSW63 Parallel Event Panelists and WFWPI International Vice Presidents

By Srishti Puri and Jeanne Carroll

The Women's Federation for World Peace International sponsored a parallel event on Wednesday, March 13 held at 4 West 43rd Street in New York as part of the 63rd Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63), and was attended by 135 guests. With the title "The Family and Social Protection" the speakers addressed the importance of valuing the family as a vital component when

establishing and implementing social protection systems. A social protection system (or social security system) consists of all types of social protection schemes and programs within a given country.

The theme provoked some significant questions: Are the policies and programs in place genuine in their aim to socially secure women? Has the impact of these policies been

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CSW63 Oral Statement by WFWPI

The Role of the Family in Securing Social Protection

March 19, 2019 - UN HQ, New York

Respectfully submitted by Jeanne Carroll and Alexa Ward

The Women's Federation for World Peace International was honored to be invited to present an oral statement at the 63rd Commission on the Status of Women on March 19, 2019. WFWPI recognizes the need to address the power, cohesion, and needs of the family. This smallest element of society serves as the building block fostering the moral, spiritual and physical health of society. With that in mind, WFWPI earnestly pinpoints the vital needs of the family to be recognized and bolstered through the availability and implementation of social protection.

The 63rd Commission on the Status of Women has attracted the attention of women advocates worldwide. While it is true that many issues are unique to women and girls, it is vital that we not overlook the role of the family as the primary social institution affecting the well-being of women and girls.

The close relationships within the family should not be overlooked as a source of fundamental security for all individuals. Those

without a family miss the most basic touch and concern of others. In times of disaster, trauma and distress contact with a family member can be the only bridge between life and death.

Care for dependent older persons, chronically ill and disabled remain scarce, unaffordable and often of poor quality. A vast majority of care for such individuals is provided by women, 46% which give up their own jobs to care for family members. In homes where women are the sole-provider the current and future health of that family unit is in jeopardy without the support of others financially or through assistance in home care. This help often comes from family members. If the family is unable to provide this support then social services should step in.

Generally, if the family cannot afford to send all of its children to school, it will prioritize sending the sons to receive an education, while daughters receive none. Families are responsible to educate all children, girls, and boys equally. Yet, if there is not an emphasis on strong family bonds, it is often the un-schooled women left alone to raise the children, care

for the elderly and disabled and provide all the domestic services necessary for the household. Without families understanding the value of educating all children, generations of poverty will prevail.

A culture that fails to value the family unit is sure to be a culture which continues to treat clients as individuals, failing to see the need of all humans to feel a sense of belonging, love, and encouragement as well as emotional and physical nourishment.

The value of profound intergenerational relationships to bequeath wisdom and self-confidence to the next generations for all aspects of life cannot be ignored. Knowledge of healthy sexuality and tools for stable marital relationships can be openly discussed with those that know each other most profoundly.

It is the responsibility of society to support and honor the family with the goal of raising healthy, well-rounded individuals. If the family is unable to provide those services then social protections should be made available.



UN at Geneva

40th Session of the UN Human Rights Council

Human Rights at the Heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

February 25 - March 22, 2019 - UN at Geneva



Human Rights and Alliance of Civilizations Room

By Carolyn Handschin

At its main annual session, the 40th Human Rights Council (HRC), there were 97 State and other dignitaries invited to speak. Eighty-

three reports were submitted on key HR themes and/or country situations and over 250 events were organized during the four weeks from February 25 to March 22, 2019. The Sustainable Development Agenda, with its natural link to the Right to Development was seen at the core of the councils' and States' agendas. "Leave no one behind" seemed to become the new human rights slogan.

The HRC is the pillar of global Human Rights architecture, built over the last 73 years from the General Assembly (GA) through its conventions, covenants, Special Procedures (independent experts) and mechanisms that have molded International Human Rights

law. In the 13 years since the Commission on Human Rights was re-born as the Human Rights Council, its more efficient monitoring systems and state accountability have been lauded. Innovations include the Universal Periodic Review, an internal assessment process of transparency, accountability and peer pressure that was designed to ensure equal treatment. The Women's Federation for World Peace, International has been present and vocal at each session since 1997.

The first day of the Council's deliberations included messages from the HRC President, **H.E. Mr. Coly Seck** of Senegal and the President of the General Assembly. **H.E.**

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40th Session of the UN Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue on the SDGs with the UN Deputy Secretary-General

September 24, 2018 - UN at Geneva



HRC President Coly Seck & UN Deputy SG Amina Mohammed

By Carolyn Handschin

The President of the Human Rights Council, **H.E. Coly Seck** opened the special "Dialogue on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" by explaining

that more needs to be done to bridge the gap between the work in New York and Geneva, a widely shared opinion among delegates and civil society. With this in mind, he introduced the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General to address the Council and many delegates in attendance, including two WFPW representatives.

Ms. Amina Mohammed stressed that the 2030 Agenda was a "people's agenda with human rights at its core." Successfully Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals meant recognizing the interdependent nature of all rights and the responsibilities associated with them.

The shortcomings of the Millennium Development Goals provided us with an

opportunity to assess and adjust. Now, again, within the framework of the SDGs, we are falling short in some areas. We can identify those who have been left behind and, if diligent, work to carry them forward – as long as the will and common cause is not lost.

It is so important to listen honestly to the voices from the field; the local expertise of civil society and human rights defenders, she continued. Accomplishing our goals is still a prodigious task, that needs coordination among all sectors, cooperation and vision. "Ultimately, the implementation of both the 2030 Agenda and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights fundamentally depended on national leadership and civil society ownership," the Deputy Secretary-General concluded.



SDG Lab Project in Geneva

Opening New Paths to 2030

Ongoing - UN at Geneva



Opening Remarks by Swiss Ambassador to the UN, H.E. Valentin Zellweger during the Blockchain Forum

By Carolyn Handschin

What is the SDG Lab? An initiative which "walks the talk", the SDG Lab is a dynamic,

broad-based initiative that supports Geneva-based actors in harnessing their knowledge, experience and expertise into innovative policy, practice and action towards the accelerated implementation of the SDGs.

The lab was conceived to maximize the human and other resources of International Geneva and its access to over 70 international bodies, UN agencies and countless NGO and other civil society and private sector organizations based there. Its keywords are: convene, connect, amplify, innovate and experiment. Working to energize goal-oriented partnerships, the platform encourages learning together (from success and failure) and provides opportunities

for interaction and collaboration among very diverse and often unrelated sectors.

Some of the initiatives, all available on their website "SDGlab.ch": A monthly "News Dispatch," The "SDG Lab=Toolkit," SDG Recommended Resource Links, a series of innovative panels, "Regional Forum on Sustainable Development: SDG Linkages," "Brainstorming Session on Country-level Progress on the SDGs" an input for the High level Political Forum (HLPF) in July in New York and "Blockchain: A New Frontier for Sustainable Development." WFPWI is part of the alliance.



CCPCJ History and 2019 Core Themes

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Side Event

March 20 - 24, 2019 - UN at Vienna

The WFWPI Office for UN Relations in Vienna was pleased to be invited to participate in the 28th annual session of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ). The CCPCJ was established in 1992 as one of the functional commissions of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The mandate of the CCPCJ is to be the guiding body at the UN on issues related to crime prevention and deterrence, improving function, and promoting international cooperation in the criminal justice system. In order to do this, the CCPCJ holds both an annual session on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and, since its founding, helps to inform the world congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice that have been

held every five years since 1955.

The 14th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice will be held in April 2020 in Kyoto, Japan. The central theme of the congress will be “Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.” Due to next year’s activities, the 28th session of the CCPCJ, held in Vienna in May 2019, had a special role, serving as part of regional preparations for the 14th Congress. As part of regional preparations, the purpose of the 28th session of the CCPCJ was to “examine the substantive items on the agenda and the topics of workshops of the Congress and to make action-oriented recommendations to serve as a basis for the draft recommendations

and conclusions for consideration by the Congress” (UNGA Resolution 72/192). These recommendations were centered on the priority theme of the 28th session: “The responsibility of effective, fair, humane and accountable criminal justice systems in preventing and countering crime motivated by intolerance or discrimination of any kind.”

WFWPI was among the NGOs, member states and other international entities who were invited to participate in the 28th session of the CCPCJ, and was pleased to contribute in the preparations for the 14th Congress by sponsoring a side event entitled “The Golden Rule in daily life education – preventing Crime resulting from Intolerance and Discrimination.”



WFWPI Side Event at the 28th Session of the CCPCJ

The Golden Rule in Daily Life: Crime Prevention

March 22, 2019 - UN at Vienna



WFWPI event organizers and panelists

By *Kyung in van der Ven, Renate Amesbauer, Mary Hinterleitner*

The emphasis of the 28th Commission of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) in Vienna, Austria was “The responsibility

of effective, fair, humane and accountable criminal justice systems in preventing and countering crime motivated by intolerance or discrimination of any kind.” In response, the Women’s Federation for World Peace, International sponsored a side event entitled “The Golden Rule in daily life education - preventing Crime resulting from Intolerance and Discrimination.”

Dr. Maria Riehl, Director of the WFWPI Office for UN Relations in Vienna welcomed the guests, emphasizing how WFWPI aims to develop and promote cooperation and friendship among women of all cultures and religious backgrounds. She went on to introduce WFWPI’s family focus on the topic of value education, explaining that the

family, particularly the three-generational family, introduces a model to the child for relationships beyond the family to the society, which resembles an extended family. Thus, the child can learn to contribute to goodness in the world.

H.E. Mr. Ortiz officially opened the event, speaking about Costa Rica as an inspirational example of how daily life education has contributed to the stability and peace in his country, the most stable and peaceful country in Central America. Education is of high importance in the Costa Rica, which has existed without military since 1967. When the military was dissolved, all resources were invested in

Golden Rule continued on page 14

Commission on Narcotic Drugs NGO Engagement at CND

May 15, 2018 - UN at Vienna



Opening of the CND in Vienna

By *Renate Amesbauer and Grace Kellett*

Every year the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) holds an annual session during which NGOs, member states and other

international bodies and UN entities come together to discuss the international drug issue. The session includes a two-day high level ministerial segment and a five-day regular segment, during which participating international bodies, civil society, and member states can sponsor and attend events. The session concludes with the development of a report on the priority theme for the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Given that 2019 was the target date set by the Political Declaration and Plan of Action towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug problem, the priority theme of the 62nd CND was “Taking stock of the implementation of the commitments

made to jointly address and counter the world drug problem, in particular in light of the 2019 target date.” WFWPI was pleased to attend the opening of the ministerial session and a side event during the 62nd CND.

During the opening of the ministerial session, some NGOs raised their voices in favor of human rights of people who are suffering from drug addiction, which includes best possible treatments to reduce the effect of sicknesses related to use of needle, etc. Recommendations included a strong demand for countries to provide the necessary funds for such treatments. No mention was made

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Conferences

22nd Women's Conference for Peace in the Middle East Humanitarian Work with a Vision

October 25-28, 2018 - Cyprus



Drafting meeting in Cyprus

By Zoe Bennett and Carolyn Handschin

The 22nd Women's Conference on Peace in the Middle East was held in Larnaca, Cyprus with the theme, "Humanitarian Work with a Vision" from October 25-28, 2018. The conference series is a project of the Women's Federation for World Peace Japan that builds upon the activities and networking of teams of volunteers sent to that region in 1995. It was often quite complicated for foreigners to access women leaders and convene events in these nations. The idea developed to organize annual high-level conferences in Europe on current peace-related themes and invite women from each of the nations in the MENA to attend.

They were freer and enjoyed the opportunity to meet with WFWP colleagues and experts, sometimes at the UN in Geneva or Vienna - and to experience other cultures. There have been in some years as many as 60 participants from 23 MENA nations. And while the conferences began under the full sponsorship of the industrious WFWP Japan members and their creative fundraising activities, more and more guests began contributing to the costs, and even that of their bright young women colleagues that they recommended.

Due to political complications, the 2018

event was postponed and finally held in 2 separate venues; Larnaca, Cyprus at the end of 2018 and Kuwait City, Kuwait in early 2019. The event in Cyprus held an additional symposium on character education curricula, one of those being developed by WFWPI: "Building a World of Peace the Women's Way: A Guide to Empowerment and Peace Leadership." It builds on the WFWPI Founders' worldview and the motivation and working principles of WFWP volunteers.

The second part of the program showcased various WFWP Japan volunteer field activities and their 25 year history of challenges and successes. These included Afghanistan and Jordan, with a particularly moving testimony of Najah, who grew in a refugee camp and stood among us a respected Jordanian MP. Many were in tears to hear her story.



Participants in Cyprus

During the course of the two-day program, guided by WFWPI President for the ME, **Zoe Nicolopoulos**, 35 participants, many with long experience in the UN, government, NGO, academia or business fields debated relevant pressing issues: These included: 1) Ways of achieving peace between Palestine and Israel, the difficulties Palestinian refugees face after fleeing the country and the devastating fate of

those who remain. Also, the effects of the war on families and communities. 2) How to apply the principles of peace in their lives to solve problems and deal with the pain and difficulties left by wars, oppression. 3) The difficulties faced by women and young girls regarding life opportunities and achieving goals and dreams in spite of their vulnerability and position in the family. 4) Ways to raise and educate children and particularly boys about gender equality and the necessity of treating the other gender with respect and dignity. 5) The importance of achieving inner peace and treating others with care, respect and with a loving, reconciliatory heart, and the need for communication.

An overview of the issues and results of 21 years of WFWPI's engagement and advocacy at the main UN Offices (New York, Geneva and Vienna) was presented by the WFWPI UN Office Director, **Carolyn Handschin**. Even as she was speaking about the importance of communication between local activists and decisionmakers, the idea was brewing among participants of going directly to the UN Security Council, requesting its attention and the urgency in resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.



Ms. Carolyn Handschin presents a letter to the President of the Security Council

Activists, leaders and even former

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23rd Women's Conference for Peace in the Middle East Women & Peace: SCR 1325

March 4-7, 2019 - Kuwait



Women's Pioneer for Peace 1325 and WFWPI

By Zoe Bennett and Carolyn Handschin

WFWPI held the 23rd MEW Conference in the city of Kuwait from March 5-6, focusing on the Gulf countries. It was in cooperation

with Women's Pioneer for Peace Initiative 1325 (Security Council Resolution 1325). This is a Kuwaiti NGO, whose president is a very close friend of WFWP and MEW. There were about 40 participants, most of them Kuwaiti; presidents of NGOs, governmental agencies, municipalities, universities, journalists and writers, etc. A representative of the royal family (Sheikha) was very engaged during the meetings. Kuwaiti public media were present, (filming for TV) and a journalist from Yemen, as well as WFWP guests from the other Gulf countries and Syria.

During the second day, WFWP was invited to

report about its global peacebuilding network and the advocacy work at the UN. The issues resonated strongly with the Gulf participants, some of whom needed more convincing about UN's current status but were encouraged by the news. This debate was followed by an introduction to the vast and generous humanitarian work that Kuwait is doing in the region and in response to conflict.

On the following day, speakers described the challenges and achievements of women in four different countries: Oman, Syria, Korea, and a look into the heart of Afghanistan from the

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New York continued...

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remarks was attended by 600 women and men, including 25 WFWPI leaders and guests. In addition to these public events, WFWPI hosted an orientation, a parallel event, an evening for young professionals, the Horizon Summit, and two tours.

WFWPI Orientation



CSW63 participants at the WFWPI Orientation

The WFWPI orientation was held on Sunday, March 10 at the New Yorker Hotel. Ms. Alexa Ward, International Vice President of WFWPI and Director of the WFWPI Office for UN Relations in New York gave the opening remarks, inviting everyone to use this time at CSW to deepen old friendships and make new ones as well. She encouraged the participants to connect to other men and women for the purpose of building a network of long-term relationships based on trust. Christina Lange, Administrator for WFWPI Office for the UN Relations in New York, prepared the participants for CSW and the week's upcoming events and activities. Guests were provided with a lovely WFWPI bag and helpful materials to equip them with information they would need throughout the week.

WFWPI Parallel Event

WFWPI was pleased to host a parallel event, attended by 135 guests, on the topic of "The Family and Social Protection" on March 13 at 4 West 43rd Street in midtown Manhattan.

This program addressed current issues and challenges related to social protection and the family through four noteworthy speakers: Ms. Renata Kaczmarek, United Nations

Focal Point on the Family; Alex Vasquez, Representative of the International Federation for Family Development to the United Nations; Ms. Shova Gyawali, Director of Nepal Republic Media; and Ms. Jeanne Carroll, UN Representative of the Women's Federation for World Peace, International. Ms. Nicole La Hogue, Vice President of WFWP, Germany moderated the event, and each presenter offered key insights into the theme.

Evening for Young Professionals



CSW63 Parallel Event Panelists

On Thursday, March 14, WFWPI hosted a casual evening of delicious food, games, and networking for young professionals that were participating in CSW63, as well as friends and colleagues of WFWPI. WFWPI guests look forward to this time set aside each year for the young professionals to gather and enjoy one another's company.

Horizon Summit



Horizon Summit program booklets

The Horizon Summit is an intergenerational gathering dedicated to fostering peace leadership that was initiated four years ago as an annual component of WFWPI's broader CSW week. The 2019 Horizon Summit, co-sponsored by WFWP, International and WFWP, USA, was held on Saturday, March 16 at 4 West

43rd Street with the theme, "Advancing The Culture of Peace." The keynote address was given by Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, Former Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the United Nations and Founder of The Global Movement for The Culture of Peace (GMCOP). The year 2019 is the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, and WFWPI was deeply grateful and honored to play a significant role in commemorating this anniversary. The day consisted of an awards ceremony recognizing a select group of individuals for their contribution to advancing The Culture of Peace; three rounds of speakers and discussions; activity rooms that encouraged guests to creatively express their reflections and goals based upon what they had experienced during the day; and concluded with a dinner banquet accompanied by musical entertainment and a call to action by the President of WFWP, USA and International Vice President, Angelika Selle.



Delegation from the Philippines at the banquet dinner

Tours

WFWPI organizes annual tours for the international guests at the end of their CSW experience. This year, tours included visits to East Garden, the U.S. residence of WFWP's founder in Irvington, NY, and to the FDR Presidential Library and Val-Kill Historic Site in Hyde Park, NY, to learn about the Roosevelts' contribution to the founding of the UN.

Moving Forward

The WFWPI Office for UN Relations in New York is grateful for the opportunity to participate in CSW each year and looks forward to CSW64 in 2020.



Conferences continued...

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government members of Israel and the Palestinian territory gathered during several evenings to compose the letter addressed to the President and the Members of the Security Council. At the closing session this letter was unanimously voted. Two months later, Carolyn was able to have an audience at the Security Council with its President, Mr. Jose Singer of the Dominican Republic and explain to him the passionate convictions of the women working there and why they are convinced that peace is now possible.



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eyes of a WFWP volunteer, and its president, Marilyn Angelucchi. There were many questions and reflections about the situation of women in the Middle East and of improving trust and partnership with other regions. The men in the audience also gave their opinions quite openly and supportively of women's best interest and participation. Visits were made to a local school, cultural and art exhibition, which provided further personal experiences of the quite resilient Kuwaiti people.

Ending on a personal note, during the

exhibit, I (Carolyn) met one of the artists, a beautiful young woman covered from head to toe. Her eyes and matching smile were all I could see, but they told everything. After she pinned one of her brooches, symbolizing "women's peace" on my jacket, I said to her in a quiet tone, "I wish I could see the face that must match your kind smile". During her break, 20 minutes later, she motioned me from across the room to follow her into a hidden corridor, where she lifted her veil and not to my surprise, it did!



Geneva continued...

International Day of Families 2019

Creating an Environment for Thriving Families

May 14, 2019 - Ecumenical Conference Hall



Participants at the Opening Session

By Jimin Millet

To commemorate the 25th anniversary of the International Day of Families, Women's Federation for World Peace, Intl. (WFWPI) and the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) in joint sponsorship with the World Council of Churches (WCC) and other partners convened a special full-day program of debate focusing on the challenges that families face, affected by conflict and crisis in an increasingly difficult global environment. How can families cope, remain resilient and be positive agents in society? And, importantly, why, how and by whom should they be supported to do so?

The opening panel, which included several of the organizers was introduced by UN Office Director for the UPF, **Heiner Handschin** who stressed the strong bond between faith and family, and how critical it is not to let both remain victims. This was further complemented by the speech of UPF Chair in Europe who explained that solutions to today's crises call for innovative partnerships based of problem-solving. Representing the Executive Director of the WCC, **Rev. Peniel Rajkumar**, Director for Interfaith Cooperation, welcomed participants, adding a favorite quote, that "to be religious at this time is to be interreligious" (Peter Phan). **Archbishop Ivan Jurkovich**, Head of the Mission of the Holy See to the UN, referred to the debates of the recent Vatican Synod on the Family and called for the defense of family for a sustainable civilization of human compassion and love. The final speaker, **Dr. Adrian Holderegger**, President of the Fribourg Peace Forum and Professor of Moral Theology, proposed that if there is no understanding between cultures and religions, there will never be respect or trust, a basis for peace and co-prosperity, among societies.

The following session was a youth-led panel of the Geneva Youth Interfaith Council (GIYA) that fully captivated the conference participants. Meeting for the 13th time, this Model UN project was initiated in 2008 to demonstrate what a High Level Interfaith

Body's recommendations could contribute to global political leaders, as well as their own constituencies around the world as a means to sustainable peace. The appeal was first made to the General Assembly in 2000 by Co-Founder of the WFWPI in 1992, Rev Dr. Sun Myung Moon. Before the Youth Council President, **Rabbi Kevin de-Carli** opened the debate, **Carolyn Handschin**, the program coordinator, read a short message from the then former General Assembly President (2000) and Indonesian Ambassador in Geneva, **Makarim Wibisono**, who was part of the program's founding team, together with **Jesus Domingo** of the Philippines Mission and UPF and WFWPI. Young representatives of Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism, Judaism and a young representative of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) each took the floor, concluding in a resolution on the theme of their session to be tabled for a vote in the Closing Plenary (excerpt at end).



Mr. Olivier Gravrand speaks during the youth-led panel

Two additional panels took place in the afternoon. The first, "War and Crisis Zones; Maintaining Familial Resilience" was introduced by **Michel Reymond**, UPF Director in Geneva. It included **Prof. Isabel Apawo Phiri**, the Deputy General Secretary of the WCC who addressed several very real and complicated conflict zone "family" issues that she witnessed in South Sudan, such as polygamy for the sake of child security and child-run households due to HIV AIDS. **Carolyn Handschin**, Director of the UN offices for WFWPI, brought in the issues of

"Climate Change and Family," the UN's theme for 2019, and crises surrounding migration. She explained how the Swiss Red Cross has started launching projects to protect families and how the Swiss government has come to see the resilience that family integrity provides and began to train its case workers in marriage counseling. **Rev. Pavel Samotovka**, an Orthodox priest and prison chaplain, described the strain of the constant fear and insecurity of families in times of conflict, especially for children if parents are not able to cope- such as seen now in Ukraine. The final speaker was **Heather Komenda**, Protection and Assistance Specialist for International Organization for Migration (IOM). She described how IOM has become aware only recently how important it is to work with families of vulnerable individuals. She is contributing a chapter to their new "Handbook on Migrant Vulnerability" on family programming, identifying the protection that families provide, as well as potential complications due to family dynamics with hopes of providing more effective support.



Prof. Phiri, Ms. Carolyn Handschin, Ms. Heather Komenda, Mr. Michel Reymond, Rev. Pavel Samotovka

The final session of the day was titled, "Thriving Families and Social Well-being," was chaired by **Chantal Komagata**, UPF SG in Switzerland. Speakers would present programs where strong families have become the mechanism to help cure societal problems, highlighting some of the initiatives that have successfully allowed families to fulfill their role in cooperation with the good work of supportive institutions. **Mr. Hafid Ouardiri**, longtime spokesperson of the Islamic Community in Geneva, pointed to the current attack on family, reminding all that it will not be possible to construct harmonious communities if we have no local and personal model. **Deepa Grover**, Senior Advisor for Early childhood Development at UNICEF, said that their mandate is working with children, which cannot be separated from family. Nurturing and responsive care is very important in the earliest years and the role of family is to be its first provider. UNICEF is a facilitator, working with governments to support parents to provide the best environment for children's development.

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New York continued...

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adjusted to the recent challenges in different contexts?



Ms. Nicole LaHogue moderates for the parallel event

With four speakers on the panel, the first to speak was **Ms. Renata Kaczmarek**, a Social Affairs Officer and the Focal Point on the Family in the Division for Inclusive Social Development in the Department of Social and Economic Affairs (DESA) at the United Nations Secretariat in New York.



Ms. Renata Kaczmarek, Social Affairs Officer and Focal Point on the Family in DESA

As an expert in the field, Ms. Kaczmarek referred to six Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which address the family; SDG 1 - no poverty, SDG 3 - good health and well-being, SDG 4 - quality education, SDG 5 - gender equality, SDG 8 - decent work and economic growth, and SDG 10 - reduce inequality. She stressed that while “only 45 percent of the global population is being effectively protected by at least one social protection benefit, with only 25 percent of households having access to cash benefits,” targeted cash reimbursements for families can be effective in providing health, education and employment support.



Parallel event participant

She also stressed that social protections work best when services are available and that

family-oriented targets have a spillover effect on the larger society. Ms. Kaczmarek concluded by emphasizing how “many of the SDGs cannot be achieved as stand-alone approaches focusing on individuals without the recognition of families.”



Mr. Alex Vazquez, representative of the International Federation for Family Development to the UN

Mr. Alex Vazquez, the representative of the International Federation for Family Development to the United Nations, gave an informative presentation concerning reports and resolutions recently made by the United Nations in addressing social protection and the family.

He also focused on the issue of unpaid domestic labor, stressing that in most of the world women put in at least 10 percent of the hours in a day involved in unpaid labor, with many countries accounting 20-25 percent or more of the day for such work. This can prevent them from finding suitable work outside the home. Although men account for some unpaid labor, women are disproportionately affected by financial loss associated with it. Mr. Vazquez concluded by stressing the need for further research on the impact of policies on the family and recommended that cost effective social protection policies and programs be developed with the family perspective in mind.



Ms. Shova Gyawali, Director of Nepal Republic Media

Ms. Shova Gyawali, Director of Nepal Republic Media, spoke of her efforts to provide social protections for vulnerable groups and individuals. She emphasized the responsibility of the media to expose corruption and to safeguard democracy. In addition, she noted how Nepal is being rebuilt by the younger generation and how this highlights the responsibility of the media to advocate for a strong family value system to

accompany these developments. In her words, “a good, healthy and prosperous family is the key to happiness and success.” Ms. Gyawali is also the Vice President of the Federation of Women Entrepreneurs’ Association of Nepal (FWEAN). This organization seeks to redefine the perspective of women entrepreneurship from economic growth and poverty alleviation towards participation of women at all levels in the socio-economic sectors. From this perspective, Ms. Gyawali also stressed the importance of having a greater integration of women in all aspects of society to accelerate growth in the region.



Parallel Event audience

As the final panelist, **Ms. Jeanne Carroll** spoke passionately as a strong advocate for the family as the most basic unit of society, based on her career as a teacher, administrator, writer and lecturer. Her work representing Women’s Federation for World Peace, International at the United Nations has shown her first-hand how the family as a unit is seldom mentioned in policy development. In order for the needs of the most vulnerable—the sick, the disabled, the elderly and the child—to be met, members of the immediate family must be able to access services.



Ms. Jeanne Carroll, Senior UN Rep, WFWPI

In addition, Mrs. Carroll spoke of the family as a natural bridge between a majority of social services and its implementation in the community. Therefore, she concluded, the family unit is vital to the administration of social protection.

WFWPI expresses its appreciation to the speakers and those who attended the event, and is pleased to have made a valuable contribution to the important topic of social protection during CSW63.



Welcoming our new WFWPI International President Julia Moon



WFWPI International President Julia Moon

Ms. Julia Moon is the new International President of the Women's Federation for World Peace International. She is the fourth President since its founding in 1992 by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon. Since 1996 she has been the managing director of the renowned Universal Ballet Company and



Ms. Alexa Ward, Prof. Yeon Ah Moon, Ambassador Chowdhury, and Ms. Carolyn Handschin at the 2018 Global Women's Peace Award Ceremony

formerly its prima ballerina. She has become successful as a businesswoman and promoter in the cultural and artistic fields. Founded as a traditional ballet company in the Kirov style, she courageously decided to challenge its profile and introduce a more contemporary style into its repertoire, determined to give a broader experience to the audiences – beginning in Korea. WFWPI Leaders and members from around the world enthusiastically welcome the opportunity to work with her.

Professor Yeon Ah Choi Moon, has stepped down from her role as WFWPI International President to become the President of the Universal Peace Federation in Korea. She first served as the vice president

of WFWPI International from 2009 to 2014 before becoming the third president of WFWPI International in 2014. Beloved by WFWPI members throughout the world for her deep commitment to the Founders' peace goals, she often liked to quote from their messages, a favorite being, "Therefore, men and women do not need to confront or contend with each other, because they do not need to imitate the characteristics, dispositions or roles of the other or to covet those things and take them by force...rather, women should play a major role in world history by serving, together with men, as one of the wheels of the engine pulling forward the construction of a peaceful world" (July, 2012).



Change of Administrator in the WFWPI Office in NY

WFWPI International would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank Christina Lange for her tenure as the Administrator for the WFWPI Office for UN Relations in New York, from 2016-2019 and, at the same time, welcome the incoming Administrator, Grace Kellett.



Ms. Christina Lange

Christina Lange joined WFWPI with a passion for bringing people of different backgrounds together. She brought with her a unique cultural and linguistic foundation representing the Pacific Rim, from east to west, including Korea, Japan and the U.S., having completed her undergraduate studies in South Korea.

Some of Christina's major accomplishments include overseeing three full cycles of annual events related to WFWPI's participation in the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), as well as the Horizon Summit; developing processes and guidelines to move WFWPI to the next level in all areas; and expanding opportunities for young adults to become involved in the work of WFWPI.

Grace Kellett, the new Administrator, came to WFWPI with professional experiences working in several international nonprofits. Grace was born in Russia, and spent her childhood in Germany and California. While this has contributed to her deep interest in the world of international affairs, she grew increasingly passionate about the area as it

relates to women, peace, and security while studying international relations, law and public policy, and international security at Northeastern University in Boston.



Ms. Grace Kellett

We wish them both well and, whether moving on or coming in, are confident that they will be a part of WFWPI for years to come.



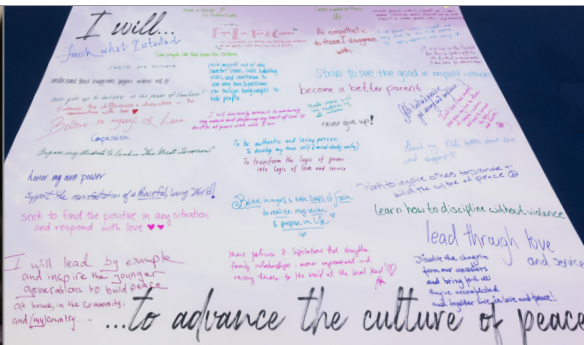
2019 Horizon Summit: Advancing The Culture of Peace

Annual International Gathering Dedicated to Fostering Peace Leadership

March 16, 2019 - New York City



Ms. Moriko Hori, President of WFWP Japan and Ms. Mion Mogushi of WFWP Korea



Poster signed by Horizon Summit participants



Ms. Klevisa Kovaci of the Friendship Ambassadors Foundation shares an insight

By Grace Kellett, Srishti Puri, Jeanne Carroll, Christina Lange

The Horizon Summit is an intergenerational gathering dedicated to fostering peace leadership co-sponsored by WFWP, International and WFWP, USA and held annually during the weekend following the first full week of CSW. Initially established as a young women leader's retreat in 2016 it was subsequently renamed the Horizon Summit in 2017 to provide a much needed stage for intergenerational dialogue. The unique structure of the event consists of an initial panel of speakers that pique the interest of those attending. Interactive sessions, which enable attendees to personally interact with their panelist of choice, follow. Lastly, creative networking opportunities enable those attending to interact genuinely with each other.

The Culture of Peace was first introduced at the United Nations through the UN General Assembly Resolution (UNGA) 52/13 in November of 1997. This was followed by the UNGA Resolution 52/15, which proclaimed the year 2000 as the International Year for the Culture of Peace. Early the next year, the UNGA Resolution 53/25 proclaimed the period 2001-2010 as the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World.



Ms. Katarina Connery, Vice-President, WFWP USA

Ms. Katarina Connery, Vice-President of WFWP, USA acted as emcee for the program. The keynote address on "Advancing The Culture of Peace" was given by Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, Former Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the United Nations and Founder of The Global

Movement for The Culture of Peace (GMCoP).



Ambassador Chowdhury gives the keynote address

During his speech, Ambassador Chowdhury stressed the need for action to be taken at four levels to attain sustainable peace - the individual, family and community, national and global levels - as "peace is a process of transformation from within an individual and the collective." Closely tied to this point of starting with the individual, Ambassador Chowdhury touched on how early childhood is crucial in sowing the seeds of peace.

The ambassador concluded by focusing on the role of women. He stated that, half of the global population are women, many who are marginalized, and until women are able to engage in society at an equal level with men, a lasting culture of peace will evade us. Ambassador Chowdhury's message set the tone for the day, which focussed on honoring women who have been actively working in areas beneficial to advancing The Culture of Peace.



Ms. Jeanne Carroll enjoying the intergenerational program with her two daughters, Jamie and Jennifer

This year at the Horizon Summit, leaders of WFWP awarded several individuals for the

work they are doing in relation to the event's theme. Three remarkable individuals were given awards for their contributions to advancing The Culture of Peace.



Ms. Mamie Thompson, International Educator

Ms. Mamie Thompson was presented with an award in the area of Fostering Peace Within the Individual. Ms. Thompson is an international diversity and education consultant with over 25 years of experience in program and training development and was recognized for the impact she has had on children and young adults on their development into responsible members of the global family. She spoke encouraging words, on how the youth have power to bring positive change, how we are more alike than we are different and the need for nonviolent conflict resolution skills in the educational framework.



Ms. Jean Kelly, Executive Director, INN

Ms. Jean Kelly was presented with an award for Fostering Peace Between Neighbors for her 26 years as Executive Director of the Interfaith Nutrition Network (INN). The audience was deeply moved by Mrs. Kelly's words on how she has been fighting the "violence of poverty" by

bringing the community together to practice unconditional love through providing essential services to those in need and uplifting them on the road to self-sufficiency.



Ms. Ranjit Jayanti receives an award on behalf of Meera Khanna

Ms. Meera Khanna was awarded for Fostering Peace Within the Individual. As a writer, poet, and social activist Ms. Khanna has been using her talents to empower women, and especially widows in India, combining grassroots work with advocacy.



Ms. Fumika Hasegawa

In addition to the three awardees, WFWP recognized two young women for their contributions to The Culture of Peace. The first Honorable Mention was presented to **Ms. Fumika Hasegawa**, a high school senior who developed a menstrual hygiene project to empower women and girls in Guatemala through addressing issues concerning health and society.



Ms. Sara Mwamlima

The second Honorable Mention was given to **Ms. Sara Mwamlima**, the founder of the nonprofit Backpacks for Africa. Sara was recognized for the incredible work she has done in the area of community mobilization, youth empowerment through education and poverty alleviation.

While the morning was focused on acknowledging and receiving inspiration from the work being done to advance The Culture of Peace, the afternoon portion focused on reflection and agency, consisting of three rounds of speakers and discussions.



Ms. Nada Elattar, UNICEF

Ms. Nada Elattar, Early Childhood Development Specialist at UNICEF Headquarters in New York, is a passionate spokeswoman for young children emphasizing that birth through four years of age are the most important years in the developing child. She spoke of the need for worldwide actions utilizing science, knowledge and experience, that are at our fingertips, to make significant positive changes which can impact the developing child and thereby impact the global peacebuilding agenda.



Ms. Kim Foulds, Sesame Workshop

Ms. Kim Foulds, Senior Director of International Research & Evaluation at Sesame Workshop, spoke of a partnership beginning in 2016 between Sesame Street Workshop and the International Rescue Committee. Programming to reach out to young children displaced due to conflict and persecution in the Middle East was initiated. New characters and scenarios had been developed to help children better deal with situations they see everyday. Segments introducing bullying, forgiveness and understanding were particularly appealing to caregivers of the children.



Ms. Carolyn Handschin

Ms. Carolyn Handschin, International Vice President of WFWPI representing Europe, as well as Director of the WFWPI Offices for UN Relations, spoke of the need for every woman to understand their role in advocacy. In order for women to sit at the table as equals she must know the issues that cause inequality and advocate tirelessly to eliminate them. She offered examples and techniques

which can enable harmony rather than division which is a skill set that can lead not only to a more gender equality but ultimately a more peaceful world. Following each speaker an interactive discussion was facilitated at each table where participants were encouraged to share their own insights on the topics and engage with the idea of themselves as peacemakers.



Participants enjoy a discussion at their table

Late in the afternoon, participants were encouraged to reflect on their own contributions to advancing The Culture of Peace by engaging with interactive rooms where they could share their personal stories, declare their action steps, and express through words and illustrations what The Culture of Peace means to them.



Banquet table decorations

The program concluded with a dinner banquet in an atmosphere set by soft lights, candles, and floral arrangements. Musical performances by Ms. Sarah Eide and Mr. Abe Deshotel rounded out the evening with artistic depth and meaning.



Ms. Angelika Selle, President, WFWP USA

Ms. Angelika Selle, President of WFWP, USA and International Vice President, closed the day with a call to action. She emphasized that peace begins with personal transformation and encouraged the participants to collaborate with each other as peacemakers, to find common ground even when it is difficult, and to never give up.



Geneva continued...

HRC continued from page 3

Maria Fernandez Espinoza Garces, happy to be back, referred to Geneva as the capital of peace and symbol of multilateralism.

“Each session offers opportunity to renew our commitment to HR,” she said. In the last few months the GA has adopted a range of important instruments which began in the HRC. The SDGs are meant to be mechanisms to support the full realization of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, remembering that the defense of HR is incumbent on society as a whole.”

In his speech, **UN Secretary General Mr. Antonio Guterres** explained that he had grown up under a dictatorship and that he has personally experienced how human rights can drive progress and ignite hope out of desperation. “Human rights are the DNA of the Founding Charter,” he added. “I will not accept a civilization that says to my granddaughter that she must wait two more generations for economic parity. Thank you for prioritizing the Right to Development, but unequal benefits are causing social tensions, which must be remedied. There are 4 environmental activists killed each week and we cannot tolerate impunity. The HRC aims to push boundaries, bring out our best, and allow us to live up to our potential.”



NGO advocates at the HRC

The **High Commissioner for Human Rights Madame Michele Bachelet** appealed to the delegates, saying: “The universal appeal of human rights standards stems from their roots in many cultures and traditions. These norms and standards have proven their value in preventing calamity: they construct safety, resilience, fairness, social cohesion and peace. This generation of world leaders has the capacity to ensure far greater well-being for their people. The tools already exist.”

Later that day, several of the same speakers returned to the podium for the annual high-level panel on human rights mainstreaming. This year’s theme grew out of the the SG’s call for a reinvigorated cooperation (multilateralism) at the 73rd General Assembly, critical to advancing the 3 pillars of the UN: Sustainable development, peace and security and human rights. Among other things, the panel discussed how the UN can harness new digital technologies to enhance people’s participation and state accountability in meeting emerging challenges such as migration, social tensions and climate change.

Other prominent features of the Human Rights Council sessions beyond the daily agenda item debates that governments, independent experts and civil society participate in, are the special Interactive Dialogues. During the 2nd week of the 40th session, **Deputy UN Secretary General Amina Mohammed** addressed the Council as part of the Dialogue on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (see related article).

Another dialogue was held with the Special Representative of Secretary General for Children in Armed Conflict, Ms. Virginia Gamba. She explored the challenges and successes preventing the abduction and recruiting of children and some of the successes in their reintegration. She also reported about the results of some of the awareness-raising campaigns and the regrettable prevalence of this tragedy that remains.

During the 2nd week, an Interactive Dialogue was convened with the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Michelle Bachelet on the subject of her 2018 Human Rights Report and oral update. Among other, the Group of Friends on the “Right to Protect,” replied with a joint statement led by Rwanda insisting on greater coordination between Geneva-based human rights organizations and other UN agencies and organs in the regions and locally... “Fourteen years ago, the principle of the Responsibility to Protect populations from genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing was unanimously adopted by all UN member states.” Early warning for the prevention of mass atrocities has never been more important and we cannot let our vigilance slip.

The Councils last days are always reserved for Council members voting on resolutions. Of the 29 texts being considered, over 50% were adopted by consensus, which is always the hoped-for outcome of the long negotiations during preparatory meeting before and during the formal sessions. Some of those adoptions included: the elimination of discrimination against women and girls in sport, reconciliation support for Sri Lanka, support for the situation of HR in North Korea.



Thriving Families continued from page 7

Rev. Dr. Peniel Rajkumar, Programme director of the WCC on Interreligious activities emphasized that the transmission of family values into practice is of the essence. Faith by itself is dead and failing to act on urgent issues is a sin too. The longest journey that one can make, is the journey from the head to the heart and all things that we can learn from the family can be summarized on how we can bridge the gap. **Giovanna Campello** joined the conference from Vienna via video call. She is the director of the Strong Families Program at UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and presented some of the tools developed by

her team that focus on strengthening families to protect youth- a preventive approach. Their statistics prove that when family cohesion goes up, youth delinquency goes down, citing specific projects. Some faith communities in the audience expressed the desire to work with such programs.



Panelists Dr. Deepa Grover and Rev. Michael Balcomb

The last panelist, **Rev. Michael Balcomb** of the Family Federation for World Peace & Unification Europe began with a video clip from a “Peace Starts with Me” rally and of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon’s passionate call for engagement for global family. Cultivating a “peace starts with me” generation and culture is the antidote to today’s apathy and confusion. He spoke of the FFWPU vision of a global mobilization for strengthened families through marriage rededication that has already reached hundreds of thousands through the world.

Concluding the day, and before the reception and entertainment, **Heiner Handschin**, representing all organizers, invited the Buddhist representative to lead a closing prayer/chant to a very diverse, yet harmonious and invigorated audience. He then invited young **Rabbi Kevin de-Carli** to read the Recommendations of the Interfaith Youth Council. Excerpts include:

“We – the members of the IRY-C – would like to appeal to the leaders of this world, whatever their field of influence may be, to consider the following principles:

We each owe allegiance to: the universal goal of creating and nourishing unity between all of humanity and respect for the inherent value of a family as both an internal and external force..

To consider that projects to support young and growing families are never a waste of resources and money. They provide an invaluable environment for character education and form the bases of our society....

“Social welfare systems’ like public education, housing projects, insurances, medical and palliative care, homeless shelters, day-care centres and so forth are indeed very important and need our support.

However, they can never replace a functional family but should rather work as an extension of and support for families.”



CSW63WFWPI Highlights



Vienna continued...

Golden Rule continued from page 4

the education of its citizens. The Ambassador went on to stress the importance that a society embrace all human rights, especially Article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights against discrimination at all levels and promoting inclusive societies. In promoting an inclusive society, the Ambassador said that four elements needed to be present: education, especially in relation to what human rights are and how to live in accordance with those rights; a legal framework to protect the human rights standard; civil society as voice to promote rights and criticize against measures that lead to human indignity; and a generation of enlightened people. H.E. Mr. Ortiz closed on a positive note, stating that the motto of the 2030 SDGs — “Leave no one behind” — can be fulfilled if everyone takes responsibility.



CCPCJ Side Event panelists

Four speakers then presented. The first to speak was **Mag. Ursula Gamauf-Eberhard** from the Austrian study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution (ASPR). Mag. Gamauf, who has been working on peace education since 2007, believes in the power of this generation. She introduced “Peace Weeks,” a programme for children aged 6 to 19 located in the beautiful surroundings of “Burg Schleining.” The programme aims to strengthen skills in dealing with violent behaviour as frequently experienced in the classroom or the home. Additionally, training courses are offered to teachers and multipliers. Further activities include an annual conference on Peace Education and the Holocaust History Project. The trainer’s family background provides an interesting backdrop as her father’s family suffered at the hands of the Nazis, while her mother’s family cooperated with them.

The second speaker, **Ms. Elisabeth Stanners**, Principal of the Vienna International School (VIS), gave her presentation on the prevention of intolerance and discrimination in the education of students at the VIS. Dir. Stanners referred to two statutes of VIS which serve as guidelines for teaching in an intercultural and interreligious context. Dir. Stanners went on to speak of how the way she guides her students is through her conviction that there exists a set of universal values, and that people can come to this understanding through questioning and discussing their religious beliefs and personal convictions. She

expressed the need to develop a faith apart from the personal religious beliefs, which extends beyond religious boundaries – a faith in universal values. To her, the “Golden Rule” — to treat other how you wish to be treated — is as universal a value as the “Universal Declaration of Human Rights.”

The third speaker, **Dipl. Ped. Sigrid Grill**, a Senior Primary School Teacher in northeastern Austria, offered her insight on the ingredients necessary for success in classrooms with a wide range of cultural and social backgrounds. This school is marked as a “hot spot” school since many pupils come from difficult living situations and lack parental support, resulting in behavioral difficulties. Ms. Grill approaches the situation with the attitude to first love the children and allow them to feel valued through being listened to and taken seriously, which opens them up to listen and learn, which enables the stronger to help the weaker. Occasionally, she guides the pupils through meditation. Ms. Grill was accompanied by the Muslim religious education teacher. As a sign of interfaith cooperation and respect, pupils of different faiths fundraised together to support St. Anna-Kinderkrebshilfe, a child cancer treatment and research institute.

The fourth speaker, **Ms. Giovanna Campello**, Officer-in-Charge of the Prevention, Treatment & Rehabilitation Section of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, introduced the “UNODC - Strong Families,” a family-focused intervention program. Research has shown that short low-cost interventions make a difference. This programme provides training in parenting and family skills in fun ways that involve everyone. Weekly “Family Time” gatherings strengthen the bonds between parents and children and reinforce positive behaviour through praise and encouragement for small accomplishments while minimizing correction for undesired behavior. The application of these simple rules, where limits are set with love, has had a positive effect on families worldwide.

Mamadou Kone, Honorary Consul of Mali to Austria, offered the closing remarks, expressing the need for families to take a proactive approach to create a better world and stressing the importance of being mindful of how children observe and learn behaviors from those around them. He mentioned his mother with great respect and referred to healthy families as an indispensable contribution to a functioning society. Finally, he expressed how WFWPI has earned his unwavering support, as an organization who shares these values and vision for the future.

WFWPI was pleased to sponsor this event, which was enriched through inspiring discussions after the presentations had concluded, and look forward to participating in the next CCPCJ.

CND Overview continued from page 4

by the groups of drug prevention methods or the possibility of full rehabilitation in case of addiction.

In response to these recommendations, the Director of the UNODC, **Mr. Yury Fedotov** took a clear stand, stating, “All our societies would be better off if more resources were devoted to supporting evidence-based drug prevention strategies, which are a sound and effective investment in families, schools and communities.” Mr. Fedotov went on to recall UN Secretary General António Guterres’ statement given on the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in 2018: “I urge countries to advance prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration services; ensure access to controlled medicines while preventing diversion and abuse; promote alternatives to illicit drug cultivation; and stop trafficking and organized crime – all of which would make an immense contribution to our work to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.”



WFWPI Reps at the Listen First stand

In addition to the ministerial session, the CND holds a five-day general session during which NGOs, member states, the media and other international bodies and entities can choose to sponsor side events. WFWPI attended one event entitled “Scaling the UNODC-Lions clubs international foundation global partnership for school-based prevention” co-sponsored by several member states, the UNODC and Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF). The representatives for the UNODC and LCIF reported together on the progress that has been made by a school based social and emotional learning program called the Lions Quest Skills for Adolescence Programme (LQSA), which aims to prevent drug use and other delinquent behaviors by targeting young adolescents. In addition, Dr. Wadih Maalouf, a close friend of WFWPI in Vienna, introduced the UNODC’s INSPIRE program that is aimed at teaching life skills to adolescents, the result of which aims not only to reduce drug and alcohol abuse, but youth violence and violence against children and others. The UNODC has several programs in addition to Inspire that engage the triangle of family, educators and community, such as Strong Families and Listen First.



Johanna Toresen, President of WFWP Norway Reflections on CSW63 and the 2019 Horizon Summit

March 10-17, 2019



Johanna outside of the UN HQ in New York

Each year UN Women and NGO CSW/ NY organizes the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), a two-week-long program with hundreds of events on issues related to women's rights and Sustainable Development Goals, held both inside and around the UN Headquarters in New York. This year was the 63rd session, and the priority theme was on social protection systems for women and girls.

For me going to the CSW63 in New York was a crazy decision, because I had no good arguments for going there. I just felt like it was the right thing to do. I did not know what to expect of CSW, and assumed it would be lots of speeches with far too short Q&A periods at the end. In a way, that's pretty much what it turned out to be, but I was surprised by how many of these speeches shaped me. I thought I knew about the suffering of the world, but quickly realized that the world was so much more messed up than I thought. Everything I heard and saw molded me, impressed me, taught me; and I claim that I have become a better person through attending CSW - becoming more valuable to the world because my awareness of the issues and determination to make a positive change have increased.

Over the course of CSW, participants could choose which events to go to. Below are summaries and reflections of a few events I chose to attend that were part of CSW63 or took place during the two weeks of the Commission.

Consultation Day

Every year, Consultation Day opens the two-week-long session, where that year's priority theme is introduced to those in attendance by notable speakers and the Woman of Distinction award is presented to a key change maker invested in the area of women's rights. Listening to the various speakers, some representing member states and others coming from civil society, I was both shocked by the terrible state that our world is in, and inspired by the many initiatives taken. I was most moved by the advertisement clips that Sean Southy, representing PCI Media in Bangladesh, who presented on the topic of

forced child marriage. The love exhibited in response, when all people stand up and protect the girls moved my heart. Most shocking was the story of a rape survivor who founded and performed with the Angel Band Project, an organization that uses music to "promote healing, raise awareness and create positive social change for survivors of sexual violence."

"Young Women's leadership for inclusive social protection Systems" sponsored by Gakkai International

I attended several parallel and side events during CSW63. One of particular interest to me was on the leadership potential of young women, sponsored by Soka Gakkai International, "a worldwide Buddhist network which promotes peace, culture and education through personal transformation and social contribution." I really liked this session, because some of the speakers were fiery, and because it showed clearly how teenagers are already making a difference. It provided a compelling case that age is no excuse to not step up and invest in world peace.

NGO CSW/NY Advocacy Training

One special parallel event I had the opportunity to attend was an advocacy training session focused on teaching participants advocacy tools they can use at the UN. This session was the most interactive, because it was literally a training. Members of NGO CSW/NY explained how the UN, NGOs and individuals can influence the outcome paper that is written during CSW. We practiced presenting our issues (one example given was the need for better public transportation in the US) to delegates attending CSW from our countries, should we have the opportunity to meet them.

Horizon Summit - sponsored by WFWPI and WFWP, USA

Over the weekend between the two weeks of CSW, I attended the Horizon Summit, an intergenerational gathering dedicated to fostering peace leadership. This year's theme was on "Advancing The Culture of Peace", in which Ambassador Chowdhury, the Founder of the Global Movement for The Culture of Peace, gave the keynote address. In his address and throughout the summit, the link between early childhood development and sustainable peace was particularly emphasized. In fact, the speeches about childhood development presented by UNICEF and Sesame Street Foundation moved me to tears. I have two small children myself and feel on one hand that I am not creating a peaceful enough environment

for them, and on the other hand that so many children have much worse surroundings - heartbreaking! I reflected how I had never cared much for Sesame Street until I heard the impact they have had on children and families around the world. I came away from that day with a serious desire to put an end to all this suffering

Learning means changing, and attending CSW has changed me a lot. So many presentations, people, conversations and experiences within those 8 days have molded me. I see the world with different eyes. The world is so much more messed up than I thought, but there are also many more people and organizations who try to improve it. I feel despair and hope at the same time. But most of all I feel determined - we have to stop this suffering now! Within 8 days I have heard so many heartbreaking stories, made new friends, seen amazing African hairstyles, passed by so many homeless and mentally ill people, seen so much pollution and trash, and stared up at giant skyscrapers everywhere! I understand better how the UN during this annual conference tries to agree on suggestions to the countries on how to improve the lives of women, while NGOs try to influence the people in that UN committee, the papers, each other and the over 4000 participants of CSW63.



Interactive discussions at the Horizon Summit

I am so lucky that I grew up in Germany and received quality education, learning that diversity is a blessing, to reflect critically about stigmas, and that men and women should have equal rights, equal freedom, and equal responsibility. I am so lucky that I got married to a Norwegian who grew up with a similar mindset, and who is a loving and responsible father, housekeeper, and husband.

The main statement of the Commission was that we need more women in decision-making roles in order to establish peace. But I would like to rephrase that: We need many different representatives from the involved parties at the discussion table: different ages, different races, different religions, different parties, men, women, and youth. And I am going to be part of that, in my own way.



Young Voices continued...

Sanjana Bhambhani

Reflection on the 2019 Horizon Summit

March 16, 2019 - New York



Sanjana at the Horizon Summit

I recently had the opportunity to attend the 2019 Horizon Summit, organized by the Women's Federation for World Peace International in collaboration and the Women's Federation for World Peace, USA in conjunction with the 63rd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63). During the conference, I was fortunate to witness a number of extremely insightful and heartfelt speeches by awardees Ms. Mamie Thompson, Ms. Jean Kelly and

I recently had the opportunity to attend the 2019 Horizon Summit, organized by the Women's Federation for World Peace International in collaboration and the Women's Federation for

Ms. Meera Khanna and the two individuals who received honorable mentions: Ms. Sara Mwamlima and Ms. Fukima Hasegawa. One speech that I found particularly significant to the theme of the conference — the role of women in building sustainable peace — was given by Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury. I think having Ambassador Chowdhury comment on the issue at a conference aimed at nurturing women in the field of global peace-building was important in that it showed the importance of male ally-ship to the feminist cause. Without the ally-ship of our male counterparts, the struggle for equality could take longer and be even tougher than it already is.

Hearing Ms. Nada Elattar from UNICEF talk about the field of Early Childhood Development opened me up to a new area of

study and provided me with a new perspective from which to work towards a better future: by inculcating peaceful practices among future generations from a young age. Ms. Kim Foulds' presentation regarding Sesame workshop also highlighted entertainment as a means to further peace, especially when integrating refugees and other displaced persons into their new communities. Finally, hearing Ms. Carolyn Handschin talk about the wonderful work being done by WFWPI gave me confidence in the possibility of a more peaceful future.

Overall, I feel grateful to have been a part of this conference. Having met with women from around the world and having heard their personal stories, I discovered some new ways in which I, as a woman, can work towards a more peaceful and lasting future on a local and global scale.



Isys Onodera-Israel Internship Reflection

New York



Isys at the CSW63 Reception

This internship is an integral part of the Master of Arts program in Global Development and Peace at the University of Bridgeport. Working in an organization provides a unique opportunity to experience firsthand what becoming a professional in the field of global peace and development can entail. In this way, the internship is a chance to discover a new passion while being immersed in an organizational culture.

Interested as I am in global issues related to women and peace, I was looking for an opportunity to do work in this area at the United Nations when I came across Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI). WFWPI is an NGO that has been in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations since 1997, and holds UN relations offices in New York, Geneva and Vienna. From September 3 to December 14, 2018, I had the privilege of interning at the WFWPI UN Relations office in New York.

WFWPI has a unique approach to its internship program. As Alexa Ward, the

director of the New York office, often states, WFWPI sees the program as a gateway for young adults to become involved in the UN, based on specific areas of interest. Therefore, from the very start I was asked what my areas of interest and goals were, which made me feel welcomed and empowered to make a meaningful contribution as a member of the organization. With WFWPI's support, I hit the ground running. Based on these goals, I attended planning meetings related to the 63rd Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63) sponsored by the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, New York (NGO CSW/NY); additional meetings held by the NGO Committee on the Family, the Department of Public Information (DPI), and the occasional high-level forum and international conference; and supported WFWPI in planning its CSW63 parallel event and the Horizon Summit, an annual intergenerational gathering dedicated to fostering peace leadership.

While I attended many meetings, I felt personally connected to the theme at the UN High-Level Forum on The Culture of Peace and became inspired to make The Culture of Peace a focal point in my professional life. Through WFWPI, I had the opportunity to meet and conduct research for Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, Former Under-Secretary-General and High Representative to the UN, and founder of The Global Movement for The

Culture of Peace. Working with Ambassador Chowdhury gave me a better understanding of The Culture of Peace and the importance of promoting it. After attending an international conference at Yale University, on the topic of "Early Childhood Development—Advances the Culture of Peace," I became increasingly passionate about the theme. This led me to look into the importance of peace education and its crucial role in early childhood development. Alongside these opportunities, I became part of the organizing team for the 2019 Horizon Summit, on the theme of "Advancing The Culture of Peace," conducting research and assisting WFWPI with database management leading up to the event.

By attending several UN briefings, I was able to meet innovative people that encouraged and inspired me. Everyone I met helped me grow, both personally and professionally. The dedication of all the people involved with WFWPI is inspiring and something that I will take with me for the rest of my life.

There are many reasons to consider interning at WFWPI, but perhaps none is more valuable than being part of something bigger than yourself and to be free to share without judgment your own experience. The significant work being done here—helping women and families to create sustainable peace in the world—inspired me and gave me the opportunity to improve my communication skills and develop into a leader.

