

WFWP USA: A Transformational Bridge of Peace in Washington DC

Kaeleigh Moffitt
August 26, 2023

On Saturday, August 26th, 2023, 70 women and men gathered at The Washington Times Building for a "[Bridge of Peace](#)" program. The Bridge of Peace is a signature project of WFWP, and was developed as a means of transformative reconciliation for individuals of conflicting backgrounds to come together in forgiveness for the past with hope and determination for the future. Since 1995, thousands of women have crossed the bridge with determination for a more peaceful future.



Ms. Vondale Mack



Emaculate Mungye

Emcee, Emaculate Mungye, WFWP Washington DC member, opened the program by acknowledging the audience, "Your presence here today means you are committing to forgiveness, to being a part of and an active contributor for peacebuilding in your community."



President, Kaeleigh Moffitt explained: "I started to see that some of the practices that the founder of this

organization, Mother Moon, were really essential to peacebuilding. And it is something that I would say is missing in the current academic and professional approach." Reading excerpts from Mother Moon's memoir, Mrs. Moffitt ended with three lessons in peacebuilding from her example: a life lived for others, practicing true love, and embracing the heart of a mother.

Katarina Connery, Vice-President of WFWP, introduced the ceremony, "Through this ceremony we are making a step from the head to the heart and towards being a bridge ourselves." Each bridge crossing pair shared personalized peace pledges before crossing the bridge and represented different areas of conflict: black and white, inter-religious, and Spaniard and indigenous tribes of Central America. The sisterhood pairs took responsibility for overcoming their own personal prejudices and made a commitment to embrace one another as a sister.

One of the bridge crossers, Ms. Vondale Mack, shared this profound pledge before crossing the bridge with her sister:



"I viewed you as a white woman that is considered to be the world's most protected individual and looked at myself as a black woman as one of the most unprotected women. This journey of coming together to share that pain, to apologize and share our tears and share our commitment to change has been powerful and eye-opening. We have taken a stand of sisterhood, against violence, hurt and pain. I am grateful that we get to share this journey not just with ourselves, but we are committed to other women joining this journey."

Following the ceremony Vice President Connery led the audience through a guided meditation to identify what a peaceful world would look like and to recognize the walls we've built in our hearts towards others that need to be eradicated. Each member of the audience, then had a chance to build a bridge with another attendee through discussion and compassion.





To watch the entire Bridge of Peace: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeMxbsPclUQ>

A YouTube video player thumbnail for the 'Bridge of Peace' event. The top left corner features the event title 'Bridge of Peace | August 26, 2023' and the host 'HOSTED BY WOMEN'S FEDERATION FOR WORLD PEACE'. The main text reads 'Bridge of Peace' in a large, stylized font, with 'of' in a smaller font and a YouTube play button icon. Below this, it says 'transformative reconciliation from the inside out'. The bottom right corner provides the date and time 'SAT. AUG. 26, 5- 7 PM', the location 'The Washington Times Building', and the URL 'tinyurl.com/bridgeofpeace'. The background is a colorful, abstract watercolor design. There are also three circular inset images showing people at the event, and a 'Watch later' and 'Share' button in the top right corner.



BRIDGE OF PEACE

“If women all around the world take one another’s hands as sisters, their men would cease to fight and kill one another...parents would no longer mourn the loss of their sons and daughters.”

— Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, WFWP Founder



WFWP’s signature project, the **Bridge of Peace**, was developed as a means of reconciliation, an avenue for individuals of conflicting backgrounds to come together in forgiveness for the past with hope and determination for the future.

In 1995 and 1996, on the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, over 20,000 Japanese women came to the United States to cross a symbolic bridge with an American “sister” in order to heal the gap which still existed between the former enemy nations. Many tears were shed, with laughter and smiles, as each side made a commitment to end the animosity of the past. Since then, we have used the Bridge of Peace in Ireland, to unite Catholics and Protestants; even in Jerusalem, between Israelis and Arabs, between Jews and Christians, and Christians and Muslims. In the United States, it has been used to heal racism by uniting women and girls in a multicolor bouquet of sisterhood, to mend the rift and misunderstanding between police and citizens, and to reconcile couples who have considered divorce and want to renew their dedication of love.

The transformative power of the Bridge of Peace lies not in the act of the ceremony, but within the heart and mind of each individual who take this step toward reconciliation. Two individuals stand at opposite sides of the bridge and bow both in repentance for anything they or their ancestors may have done to cause pain to the other as well as in forgiveness to the other side. As they cross to meet each other at the center, they cross over fear, prejudice, resentment, and pain, and embrace each other with a bigger heart and a bigger mind. In this embrace is also a commitment to a new future of peace. The Bridge is a symbol of crossing the barriers that we hold in our hearts and a willingness to embrace and accept someone different.



REFLECTIONS

“If we could have done this 50 years ago, maybe we could have prevented a war.”

— George H. W. Bush, Former USA President

“Things inside me loosened. I felt I had to apologize to Gloria for my family and for the culture in which I was raised to view black people as inferior and ignorant. Although we have grown very close as sisters and twins, and had alluded to the fact that there had been racial tension between us before God brought us together; I had never said this to Gloria before...Apologizing was difficult for me, and she readily forgave me, for which I was relieved and grateful...I told her I was sorry. It was unbelievably liberating for me after confessing to Gloria and being forgiven which I honestly did not expect, and I wanted to apologize for more situations, but I could not go on.”

“I do believe that if peace is to ever become a reality in this world, women will be at the forefront of the efforts, as the bridge and the negotiators to bring it about. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this event and meet the wonderful women who were present that day!”

RELATED ARTICLES

[Read More](#)



Promoting Dialogue, Understanding and Cooperation: Bridge of Peace Ceremony in Arizona

[Read More](#) →

Dec 8, 2023



WFWP Chicago Hosts Community-Building Through Bridges of Peace

[Read More](#) →

Nov 9, 2023



A Transformational Bridge of Peace in Washington DC

[Read More](#) →

Sep 7, 2023



TEA WITH INTENTION IN CHICAGO: Creating Community and Momentum through Monthly Meetings

[Read More](#) →

Aug 11, 2023



WFWP Leader Resources

[Member Only Webinar Access](#)

[Back to Homepage](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)