

UN Conference - "Peace initiatives"

Paris, France, 20. September 2014



Rev An giving certificates to new Peace Ambassadors - Patricia Lalonde, the from Womens organisation MEWA



Alexandre Huard, speaking on RYS - Laurent Ladouce speaking on the theme of « Holy War, Holy Peace »



At the Catholic center « Maison de La Salle », UPF France and WFPW France jointly organized an event on the theme of « Peace initiatives » to celebrate the International Day of Peace, which this year commemorated the 30 year anniversary of the UN Declaration on the « sacred right to peace ». 60 participants attended.

Laurent LADOUCE, director of « Centre Culture et Paix » in Paris, introduced the event with a talk on the theme of « Holy Peace versus Holy War », suggesting that we shift the focus today from a « sacred right to peace » to a « duty for holy peace ». In the audience, professor Edmond JOUVE, an internationally reknown expert on constitutional law and a Peace Ambassador, commented on the relevance of discussing the issue of rights at a time when Scots and Ukrainians are voicing claims to independence.

Jacques MARION, president of UPF-France, then reported on the World Summit 2014, underlining a few testimonies from participating religious leaders (from Israel, Columbia, Switzerland) who organized interreligious activities in their own countries.

Patricia LALONDE, head of the association MEWA, vividly spoke of her activities promoting women's rights around the world, most recently in the Kurdistan that is now under attack by the « Islamic State ».

Brigitte WADA, president of WFPW-France, then gave a presentation on WFPW's 20 years of « Bridge of Peace » activities and announced a plan for an upcoming bridge of peace ceremony between Muslim and Christian women from France and Algeria.

The event concluded with a talk on RYS by Alexandre HUARD, director for youth at UPF-France, who also announced a plan for an RYS event in France during the upcoming « Week of interfaith harmony » in February 2015.

After closing remarks by UPF-France vice-president Patrick JOUAN, Dr Paul AN, president of UPF-Europe awarded certificates of Peace Ambassadors to Rev. Georges BEN MANUA, a church leader from Congo with communities throughout France, and to Mrs Lila BOUKORTT, president of France-Euro-Méditerranée. Mrs Eugénie DOSSA-QUENUM, from the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, was finally introduced as a distinguished guest.