

UPF and WFWP Europe and Middle East: Women In Education For Sustainable Peace

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March 21, 2024



On March 21, the French chapters of UPF and the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP), an affiliated organization, co-hosted a meeting on "The role of women in education for sustainable peace" at the Espace Barrault in Paris. It was the second in a series of events scheduled for 2024 on the theme of "peace education" in conjunction with UNESCO.



In September 2023, UNESCO published a new Recommendation on Education for Peace, Human Rights and Sustainable Development. This is the culmination of a three-year reappraisal of its educational policies originally promulgated in 1974.

The Paris event was a reminder of the general concern for peace education in a world where conflicts are proliferating. It was also an opportunity, in the context of "Women's Month", to affirm the role of women in peacebuilding. 70 participants attended the event, on site and online, including representatives of NGOs from France, Europe, and Africa.

The three main speakers were linked to UNESCO.

Patrick Jouan, Vice-President of UPF France, moderated the event. By way of introduction, Jacques Marion, President of UPF France, presented the activities of UPF and WFWP, and spoke of the new "Good Citizenship and Peace Education" project launched in Africa, as well as WFWP's peace-building work in the Middle East, Africa, and Europe.



The first speaker was Mrs. Machon-Honoré, delegate of BPW (Business Professional Women) International to UNESCO and former President of the International Conference of NGO Partners of UNESCO and of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee. She recalled UNESCO's history and policies concerning the role of women in peace education. She then spoke of her own experience of partnership with women involved in the Jeju Global Peace Academy in Korea.



Dr. Hala Taweel, Counsellor and Deputy Permanent Delegate of the State of Palestine to UNESCO, spoke of her painful personal experience as a Palestinian under Israeli occupation. The captivated audience then heard her describe the various projects she has launched over the years to create links between Palestinians and Israelis through education.





In conclusion, UPF and WFPW believe that "education of the heart" and "education of values" are priorities for peace education. Let's hope that UNESCO will honor women of peace, including mothers who are heroines of peace education.

