

Her Story

Theme: Inspiring Inclusion

March 23 | Sydney, Australia

Overview

- To celebrate International Women's Day and promote inclusion by having three speakers sharing their inspirational life stories.
- The event symbolised the passing of wisdom and encouragement from older to younger generations and the sharing of stories about overcoming adversities.



The NSW Chapter of the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) orchestrated a captivating 'Her Story' presentation, commemorating International Women's Day within the framework of GWPN initiatives. Hosted in Sydney, the event resonated with the overarching theme of this year's International Women's Day, 'Inspiring Inclusion'. Against the backdrop of personal narratives, three esteemed guest speakers illuminated the concept of inclusion through the lens of their own life journeys. Furthermore, the event fervently endeavoured to embolden the next generation of young women, facilitated by the guidance of a youthful educator and a high school student. The presence of thirty enthusiastic attendees emphasised the event's mission to empower and inspire. Each speaker's account bespoke of arduous journeys towards their present triumphs, imbuing the audience with profound inspiration.



A transitional passage from one generation to the next is akin to a relay race, wherein the baton of wisdom and experience is passed on. This event served as a symbolic relay baton, facilitating an exchange of insights and encouragement between generations. It is undeniable that the narratives of overcoming adversity — whether stemming from the ravages of war, genocide, refugee crises, or domestic turmoil — wield a profound impact on the younger cohort. These testimonies serve not only as reminders of resilience but also as beacons of hope, illuminating pathways to happiness and achievement amidst the challenges of life.

Presenters Dr Tuong Phan - Academic Professor



Dr. Phan has devoted her career to the esteemed realms of academia within Australia and New Zealand's higher education sector, focusing her scholarly pursuits on the vital arenas of public health advancement and mental illness diagnosis. Upon her arrival in Australia via a humanitarian program for political refugees arriving by boat, she candidly shared the formidable obstacles encountered

during her assimilation and the unjust tribulations endured as a woman. With a profound

insight, she underscored the transformative potency inherent in assuming personal responsibility, industrious perseverance, and self-evolution as indispensable catalysts for realising gender parity.

Yuliana Francie - Author and Spiritual Mentor



Yuliana is dedicated to guiding driven women to unlock their full potential, elevate their vitality, and attain extraordinary success while remaining authentic to themselves. During her presentation, she recounted her journey through divorce, single parenthood, financial struggles, and the ensuing depression. However, she found her authentic identity by defying societal norms. She emphasised, "We foster a brighter future when we empower others to recognize and appreciate the significance of women's inclusion. When women feel empowered to participate, they experience a

profound sense of belonging, relevance, and empowerment."

Demila Gabriel - Ambassador for Women's and Children's rights, member of the UN Women's Council



Demila, a refugee who sought refuge in Australia following displacement due to the Bosnian and Herzegovinian war, is fervently dedicated to combating domestic family violence, safeguarding the rights of women and children, and alleviating poverty. With poignant candour, she shared her firsthand experiences of war's horrors and the enduring trauma endured by refugees. Stressing the paramount importance of extending assistance to refugees with dignity and a profound respect for diverse cultures,

religions, and Indigenous peoples, she champions a compassionate approach. Additionally, having faced domestic violence herself, she recounted her journey of seeking protection and now channels her experiences into community advocacy as an ambassador for the Women's and Children's Shelter.

Written by Satomi Terasaka

President, WFWP New South Wales