

## WFWP Spain: WFWP Europe and the Middle East General Assembly 2026

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### WFWP EUME Accelerating Forward! Conference: A Warm, Inspiring Gathering in Madrid

From February 27 through March 1, 2026, Espacio Ronda in Madrid became a vibrant hub for WFWP national EUME presidents as young women gathered to accelerate forward together. The conference, rich with personal connections, thoughtful dialogue, and forward-looking planning, blended formal sessions with moments of fellowship that reinforced the heart of WFWP's mission: education, peacebuilding, and regional collaboration across continents.

The gathering opened on a welcoming note with warm personal introductions that set an inclusive and collaborative tone. Marcia de Abreu delivered a heartfelt opening, underscoring shared purpose and mutual support. That spirit carried into the evening as attendees enjoyed a relaxed dinner at La Arrocería, where conversations drifted from practical planning to stories and singing of impact and hope.

Saturday began with a well-paced routine that balanced nourishment for body and mind. Breakfast provided a friendly space for early networking, followed by a ceremony featuring time for meditation and reflection led by Paivi Yoshizumi. The day then unfolded into a series of sessions focused on regional collaboration. Julia Wang served as MC for Session I, with Mitty Tohma delivering welcoming words on Global Themes Alignment.

Regions shared brief but meaningful reviews and plans for 2025 - 26: North-East, South-West, Central, the ME Region, and the Balkans Region, each represented by the sub-regional directors. A brief Q and A invited cross-regional insights, reinforcing the value of shared learning.

After a mid-morning break, regional breakout groups gathered to crystallize summary insights and set regional goals for the new year.

Lunch and downtime offered space for informal dialogue and relationship-building, a recurring thread that wove together the practical with the personal. Some attendees visited the beautiful city of Madrid.

Session II, focused on Education, featured MC Ann Schaffner and a lineup of presenters from the EUME Education Department and initiatives. Lubica Magnusson, the newly appointed education department director, led with a vision for education, followed by contributions from the Leadership of the Heart, The Woman's Way Peace Education, and the Youth Peace Academy. The session closed with a lively Q and A, deepening understanding and cross-pollination of educational approaches. The educational materials will be available on our website.

Evening brought a brief pause to regroup before Session III, which centered on financial stewardship, sponsorship, and goal setting for 2026. MC Erica Pina, invited Vigdis Parkins who guided participants

through the 2025 financial review and the outlook for the year ahead, with Diana Esamu sharing how to apply for large-scale funds from institutions within our region, and Marcia de Abreu sharing about her recent trip to the Philippines with key women leaders for the permaculture programme strategies. A Q and A session provided transparency and clarified pathways for sustainable support.

Dinner at Burmet Olmos offered another opportunity to reflect, share, and envision together.

Sunday morning brought a lighter, reflective finish to the weekend. Breakfast provided space for informal exchange about lessons learned and next steps, while a local community engagement component invited participants to participate in a morning service. Messages from Britta Houston, Julia Wang, and Mitty Tohma added a flavor of connection, appreciation, and shared mission. For those who wished, an optional program offered a 12:30 concert and a Bazaar to support the EduCamerún Project, a reminder of WFWP's broader impact and commitments.



Across these three days, several key outcomes emerged. Regional roadmaps were crystallized, with each region presenting clear goals and planning trajectories for 2026. The education and peacebuilding emphasis brought practical, action-oriented programs, empowering youth, leadership development, and cross-cultural understanding. Financial transparency and sustainability were reinforced, highlighting the importance of transparent reporting, sponsorship outreach, and responsible stewardship of resources. Above all, the conference underscored a community- and service-oriented spirit, strengthening networks and reaffirming WFWP's mission to foster collaboration, learning, and positive action.

As the group looks ahead, the plan is to finalize regional action plans into a consolidated 2026 strategy with concrete milestones. Maintaining momentum through regular admin and regional check-ins will ensure energy translates into tangible progress, ensuring that the spirit of Madrid's gathering continues to inspire action and connection in the months to come.

Reported by Mitty Tohma and Marcia de Abreu

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