

Women's Federation for World Peace International



United Nations Office Newsletter

Spring 2015

Young Women & Leadership: Education, Opportunities, and Obstacles

WFWPI CSW 59 Parallel Event

March 9, 2015 - Armenian Convention Center, New York



By YoungSoon Quinn,
WFWPI Intern New York

Women's Federation for World Peace International hosted a CSW parallel event attended by over 200 participants including NGO representatives, WFWP members, and high school and middle school students. The young women panelists are aspiring and actively taking on roles to bring lasting peace into the lives of women and girls. The speakers were both enlightening and inspirational to the audience and give much a hope to the world.



Ms. Heather Fraser-Harris, WFWPI UN Office, moderated the initial session, introduced the event sponsors and welcomed all participants, including high school and middle school students from the tri-state area. The sponsors were Montage Initiative, World Youth Alliance Foundation, WFWP USA and WFWP International.

Ms. Sharon Pedrosa and **Ms. Klevisa Kovaci, Montage Initiative**, spoke about their organization, which focuses on giving women opportunities to earn a sustainable living for their families. Montage Initiative strives to eradicate poverty and build peace, by empowering women to be role models as well as great influencers of society. Ms. Pedrosa and

Ms. Kovaci believe that all women, especially young women have great power to change the world for the better. Ms. Pedrosa added that all organizations that support and advocate for empowerment of women need to unite in solidarity to create a strong, lasting impact for women.

Ms. Kiyomi Schmidt, WFWP USA, shared that WFWP empowers women with knowledge, dignity, and family education through workshops, service learning, and peace-building activities; to bring lasting harmony and peace to the lives of women and their families. Ms. Schmidt reported that there are 35 chapters across the U.S. whose members strive to live by the logic of love in order to be peacemakers and leaders in their families and communities. Ms. Schmidt also stated that barriers of the heart cannot be broken without autonomy, education and compassion.

Ms. Weronika Janczuk, Director of Education, World Youth Alliance Foundation, co-sponsor and panelist of the CSW event, focused on developing curricula on human dignity as an alternative to sexual education programs.

Ms. Nomnandi Bengu, Youth Educator and Chairwoman, WFWP Harlem, moderated the main panel, introduced the panelists and greeted participants. During the session, she

CSW59 Young Women, *contd. on pg. 9*

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Celebrating CSW59

WFWPI Luncheon Meeting

March 10, 2015 - UNHQ New York

By Julia Granstrom
and Bonnie Berry



The WFWPI luncheon was held in the West Terrace Room of the UN Delegates Dining Room and was attended by one hundred WFWP leaders, members and friends from as far away as Korea, Japan, Switzerland, Austria, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Philippines, Canada and across the United States.

Moderator for the afternoon, **Ms. Nicole Thiessen**, introduced the **keynote speaker**,

Ms. Patience W. Stephens,

Director/Special Advisor for Education for UN Women.

Ms. Stephens reminded us of the critical importance of access to education for girls and young women. She focused on the responsibility of every person to mentor and encourage young women; "Power and change must come from women on the platform reaching out to those who are not. We each have that responsibility, each and every one of



CSW59 WFWPI Luncheon, *contd. on pg. 9*



Statement of Purpose

The Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI) supports a network of National WFWPI Chapters in over 120 nations that are dedicated to empower women with "the knowledge, the tools and the support needed to create peace at home, peace in our communities, our nations and throughout the world."

Programs, designed according to local needs and capacities, include: leadership training for women and girls, education for peace and reconciliation, skills development and advocacy at major UN Offices and various regional and national institutions. In support of United Nations Millennium Development Goals, WFWPI maintains over one hundred service projects in fifty nations, in the areas of education, vocational training, microcredit, AIDS prevention education, technical support, medical assistance and nutrition guidance.

WFWPI Chapters adhere to the principle that women, working together, taking initiative and empowering one another across traditional lines of age, race, culture and religion to create healthy families, are resolving the complex problems of our world. Ultimately "solutions" come as true partnerships between men and women are established in all levels of society. The beginning point is within society's most elemental level—the family. From there, peace will naturally expand.

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At the UN in New York...

Youth Engagement in the Transition from MDGs to SDGs

February 2-3, 2015 - UNHQ New York City

By Heather Fraser-Harris

The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in partnership with the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth and the UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth organized the ECOSOC Youth Forum which took place at the United Nations headquarters in New York, with the theme "Youth Engagement in the Transition from MDGs to SDGs: What will it take?" Launched three years ago, this forum was created as an opportunity to engage youth in conversations with Member States and to bring their ideas and solutions into the various policy discussions that take place at the UN.

This year's session brought together over 600 youth leaders, activists, government representatives and more, who shared their successes in the implementations of the MDGs as well as highlighted the issues at stake in the regions of the world that they represented. Speakers shared enthusiastically the value of this period in time where youth are being

pulled to be active change makers rather than beneficiaries of the decisions made on their behalf. Secretary General Ban Ki Moon encouraged the participants to challenge their leaders to include them in the creation, implementation and accountability process of the SDGs.

Through engaging them in these efforts, and providing programs and activities to educate and mentor them, youth are able to develop skills that will support them in choosing paths that steer them away from violence in circumstances where that may seem the better alternative to unemployment. Youth bring with them their wild ideas and technological saviness that overcome barriers, as Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi, the SG's Envoy on Youth, shared "Youth are part of the solution," and they will play a crucial role in contributing to a more united world of peace. Mr. Alhendawi reassured everyone by saying "we will work to ensure that the Global Youth Call is not a missed call."



CSW59: Implementing the Beijing Platform - 20 Year Review

March 9-20, 2015 - UNHQ New York City

By Bonnie Berry

This year, an unprecedented 8,500 NGO representatives registered for and attended CSW 59 official sessions (where CSW member state delegations report on their country's status of women, participate in ministerial panels, debate the content of the document on CSW working methods and more), side events and 450 different parallel events. NGO CSW NY Chairwoman, Ms. Soon-Young Yoon estimated that an additional 30% who were not registered for CSW, attended parallel events around New York City. A growing number of young women

participated as NGO representatives, many of whom were panelists and presenters in parallel events. These young women bring a new energy, excitement and a sense of possibility that the best is yet to come with regard to women's empowerment, gender equality and a future of peace among the global human family.

Complete summary report is available on our website, <http://www.wfpw.org>.
(Videos of CSW sessions and NGO briefings can be found here: <http://webtv.un.org/search?term=Commission+on+the+Status+of+Women>)



Bring Back Our Girls

April 13, 2015 - Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, New York City

By Roshan D'Souza

U.S. Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney (NY-12), together with a number of VIPs, gathered at Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza to commemorate the 1-year anniversary of the kidnapping of more than 270 girls from their school in Chibok, Nigeria by Boko Haram. Although, some of the girls managed to escape captivity, roughly 230 of them are still missing.

The VIPs present were: City Councilmember Ben Kallos (District 5), Dr. Mojúbàolú Olufúnké Okome from BringBackOurGirls, Margo LaZaro, Int'l Council of Women and Global Family, Co-Chair of NGO Committee on Sustainable Development, Assembly member Rebecca Seawright (76AD), Mr. Lawal Mohammed Hamidu, Minister of Counter Terrorism of the Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the UN, Consolée Nishimwe, Author and Survivor of the 1994 genocide against the

Tutsi in Rwanda, Ravi Karkara, Co-Chair of the World We Want 2015 Policy and Strategy Group, Vivian Adhiambo Onano, Advisor to UN Women Global Civil Society Advisory Group, African Leadership Academy, Bruce Knotts, Director, Unitarian Universalist UN Office, Chair of NGO Committee on Human Rights, NGOCSO Executive Board Member, Benjamin Skinner, Co-Founder and Senior Vice President of Tau Investment Management, Ayana Gay, President of St. Joseph High School's Girls vs. Trafficking Club.

As a gesture of solidarity with the Chibok Girls, the High School students in attendance tied 223 ribbons around trees and railings - one ribbon for each of the girls still missing. Attendees wore red (official color of BringBackOurGirls) or Purple (official color of Stop Violence Against Women).



At the UN in Geneva ...

Human Rights Council Side Event UN Mine Action Service (MAS) February 2015

By Dr. Yvonne von Stedingk

During the intervals between the regular sessions of the Council of Human Rights as held at the United Nations in Geneva, different sessions of related but more general interests are being held.

One such good example was a meeting called by the United Nations Mine Action Service / UNMAS/ with some leading officials informing about the organization's activities in general and with some reference to the activities in Afghanistan, Somalia and Palestine.

UNMAS has recently expanded its office in Geneva to be able to engage more with the Geneva-based community, to connect with humanitarian actors and serve as a focal

point for matters related to mine-action relevant treaties. Such treaties including the Anti-personnel Landmine Ban Convention, The Convention on Cluster Munition, and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

UNMAS was established by the UN General Assembly in 1997 to be the focal point for the United Nations mine action. It comprises five areas of work; clearance, risk education, victim assistance, advocacy and stockpile destruction. UNMAS also leads coordinates and carries out efforts to mitigate threats of an increasingly wide range of explosive hazards, unsafe and unsecured weapon and ammunition as well improvised explosive devices and cluster bombs.



Mr. Rashid Khalikov, Director of OCHA Geneva and Ms. Louise Aubin, from the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees.

In accordance with Security Council mandates, UNMAS is an active component of peace keeping and special political missions throughout the world and also intervenes at the request of member states and United Nations Country teams in the context of humanitarian emergencies for affected countries. Officials of UNMAS drew attention to the fact how every year mines and other explosive remnants of war, as well as unsafe munition depots, cluster

UMAS, *contd. on pg. 4*

UNECE Regional Review:

November 3-5, 2014 - UNHQ Geneva

By Carolyn Handschin

Over 700 representatives of civil society organizations and institutions representing all 56 nations of the United Nations Economic Commission for the European Region (UNECE) came together for the NGO Forum Review of the Beijing Platform for Action. The Forum was organized by the NGO Committee on the Status of Women (NGO CSW Geneva), a network of NGO's with consultative relations at the UN in Geneva. Held from November 3-5, 2014 at the United Nations, it benefitted from the support of the Swiss Agency for Development, the City of Geneva, the governments of Canada and the United States. The UNECE, the United Nations Office in Geneva and the UN Women were also important partners.

The NGO Declaration and Recommendations that were drawn up during these 3 days began by celebrating some of the achievements in the ECE that could be traced back to the Beijing advocacy framework, and followed with forward-looking recommendations linked to each of the 12 Articles of the Beijing Platform. Although it was found that the Beijing Platform, agreed upon in 1995 was as relevant then as now, hindsight was very helpful in advancing the vision and goals into the next 20 years. Earlier hopes of a 5th World Conference on Women in 2015 were scaled down to this review process.

Achievements in the ECE since 1995, with mention of work still to be done:

1. Tremendous progress has been made on education in many countries in the region, although regional disparities still exist.
2. Fewer women die in pregnancy and childbirth from preventable causes, although, young women, minority, indigenous and migrant women are at times deprived of services and information.
3. Strong women's organizations and civil society networks in communities, and at all levels. In some countries there is restrictive space for civic engagement, and women's groups remain underfunded.
4. Increased numbers of women in decision-making, although uneven across sectors and regions.
5. Strong Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women at national and international levels, including the establishment

of UN Women. However, these remain largely underfunded and poorly resourced.

6. Strong normative, legal and policy frameworks are being established to address a range of issues including women in decision-making, education policies, and violence against women. However, lack of implementation, compliance and accountability exists.

7. Data collection and dissemination has improved, but there is still an immense need for more disaggregated data and information.

8. Gender responsive budgeting has been a positive approach in the region though not applied to all sectors by all countries.

9. UN Security Council Resolution 1325/2000, and subsequent resolutions focusing on women's role in peace and prevention of violence was landmark.

Pre Forum discussions across the region over months, 16 Roundtables during the Forum, as well as the Plenary debates yielded a list of relevant 'Recommendations' that were presented at the intergovernmental Beijing+20 UN ECE Regional Meeting on Nov. 6-7, 2014. Summary documents were intended to contribute, with those of other regions, to the governmental debates in March 2015, at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)



Committee members of the NGO CSW in Geneva with its president, Nyardzai Gumbonzvanda.

Beijing+20, *contd. on pg. 12*

At the UN in Geneva ...

28th Human Rights Council

Human Rights Defenders: Partnerships for Peace and Security

March 2-27, 2015 - UNHQ Geneva

By *Amira Neff*,

WFWPI UN Rep in Geneva



During the three week session of the 28th Human Rights Council, the UN member states gather together to discuss, propose, and vote on resolutions about human rights issues around the world such as: women's participation rights, cultural heritage rights, migrant rights, prevention of sexual violence or protection of the family.

But this is not all that happens during this time. Many Non-Governmental Organizations hold side events focused on issues of their concern as they intersect with the agenda of the Council. Prominent in these concerns is empowering women with the tools they need for greater political participation. For instance, as was mentioned in one side event, with more women highly placed in African countries, deadlocked situations could change.

UMAS, contd from pg. 3

bombs and improvised explosive devices kill or injure thousands world wide with terrible effects on entire populations.

UNMAS is mandated by the UN General Assembly to be the lead UN entity on explosive hazards and focal point for the coordination of mine action in the UN system together with other UN entities to implement the UN vision of a world free from the threat of mines and explosive remnants of war. Thus UNMAS is an active component of peacekeepers and special police missions throughout and intervenes at the request of member states in the context of humanitarian emergencies.

Having thus given a clear indication of the role and function of the overall work of the organization, the officials at the meeting gave some examples of the work in Afghanistan, Somalia and Palestine.

In Afghanistan, amidst political uncertainty and as international military forces are planning to withdraw from almost 15 years of combat operations, the Mine Action Program of Afghanistan (MAPA) continues tirelessly and successfully to rid the country of landmines and other explosive remnants of war. MAPA's ongoing success is the great support it enjoys from the Afghan people, who have not only supported the program but also courageously defended the lives and tools of its staff.

With the active support of MAPA by the local population, the goal of a mine-free Afghanistan is expected to be reached by 2023, opening land for the development of housing, agriculture, health clinics and schools.

As concerns funding, the MAPA is supported partly by a number of donors to the UN

One such event, held on March 26th, was about cultural identity and integrity of Art of Mali and the rich architectural heritage of the historical Town of Timbuktu. But behind the scenes, and unknown to many, there is another problem concerning brutality in the countryside against women and girls.

In commemoration of International Woman's Day and as a contribution to a peaceful settlement of the crisis in Mali and regions, the African diaspora in Geneva, together with WFWPI participated in a side event organized by the African Assembly for the Defense of Human rights (RADDHO, the French acronym) on "Civil Society of Mali and Pan-African Leaders." It was a passionate, but constructive two hours that attracted over 60 participants. Protection of women and girls from sexual violence, the inability of government to prevent such crimes, the role of the Malian/ African diaspora in information sharing and their right to participate in

voluntary Trust Fund, administrated by UNMAS as well as by a number bilateral donors. Following an appeal by the Afghan Ministry of Economy to all NGOs and other aid agencies to internally displaced people (IDPS) who as result of extreme weather conditions were forced to leave their homes, responded generously.

Concerning Somalia, one important aspect of UNMAS' activities there, is Mine Action as Humanitarian Actor;

1. Thus, a clearance project in the South Central part is a good example of mine action contribution to humanitarian action with activities involving risk education and community liaison.

2. UNMAS Somalia coordination with mine action NGOs and also with UNHCR support of its operations.

3. UNMAS Somalia participates in the field protection cluster led by UNHCR.

4. And UNMAS Somalia is the process of establishing a field Somalia Explosive Hazard Sub Cluster.

As examples, finally, of UNMAS's considerable activities in Palestine, n.b. Gaza can be mentioned in the following general overview of its "3 Phase Response." Phase 1 was the emergency period from July to December, 2014. Phase 2 consisted of Early Recover and Phase 3 of Recovery and Reconstruction.

On July 23, and following weapons found at an UNRWA school in Gaza, the UN Secretary General directed the UN Mine Action Service to immediately develop and implement an effective security plan for the safe and secure handling of any weapons discovered in UN premises and to immediately deploy personnel

elections, were but a few of the issues heatedly debated.

Later a statement summarizing these concerns was delivered in the most polite and formal language to the plenary session of the Human Rights Council. Reminders were made about the legal commitments to international conventions that the governments have taken over the years. It was very interesting to note the different tone, while knowing the key issues had not changed, nor had the resolve of civil society. The care taken for preparation and following the protocol was striking. The tapestry of differing opinions among civil society participants at the side event could come into solidarity when given an opportunity to present their case to the Human Rights Council members. They knew very well that their government was among their peers and that would make the listening ever more attentive.



with expertise to deal with the situation.

Thus, finally, UNMAS surveyed and cleared 214 sites at the request of UN entities. The considerable impact of UNMAS' response at the time of the Gaza Humanitarian Crisis in 2014 can be summarized as follows: Hundreds of thousands of children could return safely to school; Movement of people and goods resumed; Thousands of IDPs returned home safely; Economic and social activities resumed; At-risk population is able to identify and safely respond to ERW (explosive remnants of war) contamination; and safe and timely humanitarian recovery and reconstruction operations.

The 10 year anniversary of the observance of the International Day for Mine Awareness is being highlighted in Geneva with an exhibition of youth's artwork from UNMAS programs around the world, titled, "More than Mines".



Beijing+20, contd from pg. 3

in New York. The theme for this CSW 59 was, "Implementing the Beijing+20 Platform for Action," in essence, the replacement for the World Conference.

A few notions that found their way into the recommendations were: inclusion of women at the heart of the Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's); women's access to resources like credit, funding, justice; preventive action on early and forced marriage and FGM; systematic focus on women as users and shapers of new technologies; power sharing among and between women and girls; and, partnership between men and women for gender equality and prevention of violence.



At the UN in Vienna ...

Education in the 21st Century: 4th Capacity Building Session on Education Investing in Girls' Education: Best Road to Development

March 23, 2015 - UN Vienna

*Yoshiko Pammer, Ewald Schenkermayer and
Mona Schölzl,*

Speaking to a full room, Dr. Maria Riehl opened the conference with the words, "Repetition is the mother of wisdom," referring to this 4th in a series of capacity building sessions organised by WFWPI at the UN in Vienna in support of SG Ban Ki Moon's "Education in the 21st Century." When girls excel in primary and secondary schools, their lives are forever affected.

Dr. Lan Young Moon, WFWPI, Special Advisor to WFWPI and past President explained in her opening statement that more than 200 million girls are still sent to work rather than school. The educational aspiration of Korean mothers for their children has led to remarkable development. Her grandfather invested his wealth into a school and went on to send his five daughters to higher education, which was exceptional at that time. Educated girls help assure the social development of future generations.

SESSION I : Snapshots into Education in four countries: Afghanistan, Mali, Austria and Rwanda (report).

WFWPI UN Office Director, Ms. Carolyn Handschin, introduced **H.E. Ayoob Erfani, Ambassador of Afghanistan** to the UN in Vienna. Before the war, girls went to school but there were still social barriers and families were not supportive.

In the last 2 years, there has been a huge social revolution, now everyone wants to send girls to school. Yet there are dangers. Without education for girls, there are no educated women models, teachers, politicians, and judges. The Government has the task to provide conducive conditions for education. It is against the law and our religion to have early forced marriages. "How can other NGOs like WFWPI support?" 1) By supporting the building of schools in Afghanistan and 2) by applying positive pressure on us.

Mali was represented by **Mr. Mamadou Kone**, a consultant on international relations in the areas of education and human rights, speaking on the "Importance of the mother's role in education." He experienced how his mother managed to give the critical educational components of love, respect, responsibility, discipline, and creativity to all 10 children.

"The education process is not mathematical. Stories from my mother and grandmother in the evening were the 'lessons' I looked forward to. Every figure reflected a virtue, planted towards building my character. The stories developed my memory, my respect for elders. My father showed me how to treat women through how he treated my sisters. He taught me diplomacy and authority." A saying in Malian society reads: "When a child is bright, it is the child of everybody. When a child fails, it is the child of its mother."

Ms. Teresa Habjan, Austrian Commission for UNESCO-Youth, spoke more broadly of the curriculum that she works with in Austria. At UNESCO, gender equality deals with mainstreaming and programming. Gender programming is strengthening women's participation in radio production (a powerful information tool) and editorial content. UNESCO has developed a Global Citizenship Education model praised by Kofi Annan that prioritizes girls' education. Society benefits at all levels. (See "World Atlas of Gender Equality" on UNESCO website.) UNESCO – UN Women developed a new mobile technology for learning since Feb. 2015. Asked by Ms. Handschin about her role at the UN Alliance of Civilizations, 5th Global Forum, Vienna 2013, she explained that she had the honour to present the report of all youth participants at the plenary. Their recommendations were

Girls' Education, contd. on pg. 10

Education in the 21st Century: 3rd Capacity-Building Session on Education Bringing 58 Million Children to School

October 15, 2014 - UN Vienna

By Elisabeth Cook and Elisabeth Riedl

In support of the United Nations and the Secretary-General's Ban's goals of education for global citizenship, the Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI), and Global Women's Peace Network (GWPN) together with UNESCO, ACUNS, YEA, and UPF organized a third capacity building session. The 1st and 2nd sessions were held September 2013 and April 2014, respectively.

Opening remarks were given by **Mrs. Carolyn Handschin**, WFWPI UN Office Director. "Let's applaud Malala, who was chosen for the Nobel Peace Prize 5 days ago. This is an unprecedented time where young people can achieve so much. How important it is for youth to have peers as role models who have such courage and integrity. The young people who are joining ISIS are misled and it is not only their fault. We couldn't reach them to support their aspirations through education and inclusive living environments. We want to discuss today about how to change that."

Speaking in the place of **Mrs. Friederike Koppensteiner**, Chair of the Austria National Commission for UNESCO was **Mrs. Irene Jilg**, Coordinator for the United Nations Technical schools in Vienna and a UNESCO Vienna school teacher. UNESCO schools were

founded in 1953. Today there are UNESCO schools in 180 countries with more than 9900 members, and 90 multicultural schools in Austria. Projects range from students teaching and recording peace songs in their native languages and programs on "global citizenship." 40 different mother tongues are represented. "This brings many cultural challenges: we want to preserve the Austrian heritage, but also the heritage the children bring with them."

Mr. Mamadou Kone, Project Manager for an NGO working in Mali and Austria, and Consultant on international relations in the areas of education, health and human rights presented on the topic: Literacy as a means to promote social awareness in the rural area of Mopti, Mali. The impact of teaching in the mother tongue is huge.. Literacy as means of reinforcement and transfer of knowledge: for example, cultural knowledge, native history, preservation of nature, and health traditions.

The third speaker of the session, provided insight based upon a government report of the Philippines. On the 7100 islands of the Philippines are 120-130 certified languages. Illiteracy and maternal mortality is still high. The government and institutions are investing in mothers and children. Since 2012 kindergarten is compulsory and they have



implemented a longer 12 year basic education package.

Session 2 was chaired by **Dr. Shantu Watt**, UN Women's Guild and WFWPI UN Representative in Vienna,

Carolyn Handschin "The link between informal and formal education for peace." A core component of WFWPI activities is character education. Mrs. Handschin, mother of 7; 5 daughters and 2 sons, and 3 granddaughters asked, "Why do children not go or are not able to stay in school?" Income,

Vienna/Education, contd. on pg. 8

59th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women 2015

WFWPI Parallel Event

March 9, 2015



WFWPI CSW 59 Parallel Event Co-Sponsors:
World Youth Alliance Foundation, WFWP USA,
Montage Initiative.



CSW 59 Speaker Panel on the theme
"Young Women and Leadership:
Education, Opportunities and Obstacles."



Relaxed Moment -
CSW 59 WFWPI Panel Speakers.



Audience
"Young Women and Leadership:
Education, Opportunities and Obstacles."



WFWP International President Prof. Yeon Ah Moon and
UN Office Administrator, Heather Fraser-Harris.



Participants during a 3 minute
pair-share interactive break.



Student asking the panelists a question
following their presentations.



Dawn A. Dalrymple, Advisor, Montage Initiative; Joanne
Watkins, President & CEO, Montage Initiative;
Prof. Yeon Ah Moon, WFWP International President;
Alexa Ward, WFWPI UN Office Deputy Director.



Montage Initiative President and
Student Advisory Board along with
WFWPI UN Office team.



M.A.C.A.D.E.M.Y Student Delegation.



North Star Academy High School Student Delegation.



Frederick Douglass High Student Delegation.



WFWPI Events at CSW59 - United Nations, New York

CSW59 WFWPI Luncheon

March 10, 2015



Keynote speaker Patience Stephens, Special Advisor for Education, UN Women with WFWPI UN Office Leadership.



Prof. Yeon Ah Moon
WFWPI International President.



Mrs. Carolyn Handschin, Director, WFWPI UN Office
presenting on WFWPI and the Beijing Process.



Keynote speaker Patience Stephens, Special Advisor for Education, UN Women receiving gift from WFWPI International President.



Hazami Barmada, Communications Specialist, Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth receiving gift from WFWPI International President.



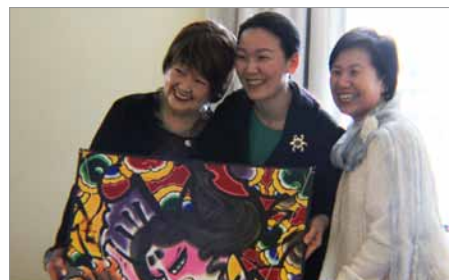
Padmini Murthy, Executive Committee Member, NGO CSW NY receiving gift from WFWPI International President.



Ms. Nicole Thiessen (left), Moderator for the WFWPI CSW Luncheon with young women participants.



WFWPI Leadership with WFWPI parallel event speakers and moderators at CSW59.



WFWPI International President receiving gift from Ms. Tokuko Sato, Tsugaru Kite Artist from Japan.



CSW59 WFWPI Luncheon attendees.



Keynote speaker Patience Stephens with WFWPI International Leadership Representatives.



Group Photo



At the UN in Bangkok

WFWP Thailand - International Women's Day

Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity

March 8, 2015 - Bangkok

By Delia Javanasundra,

WFWPI UN Representative in Bangkok

WFWPI-Thailand was invited by the Office of the Governor of Saraburi Province, two hours from Bangkok by car to celebrate together the International Women's Day 2015. It was a half day program with the theme "Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity" held at Nongnak, Nongkhaen District, Saraburi Province. Six WFWP representatives participated in the celebration.

At the event in the province, each local women organization had the possibility to display information about their work. The WFWPI booth exhibited brochures and sold souvenirs such as beautiful cards and Mother's Heart Network T-shirts.

The program included an exhibition, organized to showcase the activities of women's groups in enhancing the qualities of life in their community and the province. It also honored outstanding women leaders. Furthermore, a forum was held about the role of dialogue and how to strengthen the network parties to contribute to society, Thailand women's development plans. Mrs. Wilawan Jiamsrisakul, Director of Social Development and Human Security of Saraburi together with two other women leaders from Nongkhae District spoke. Mrs. Delia Javanasundra, Advisor, WFWP-Thailand shared about the activities of WFWP together with Mrs. Supaporn Matsui, the new Secretary-General of WFWP-Thailand.



Governor of Saraburi Prov., Hon. Wichien Puttiwinyu, presided over the commemoration of Int'l Women's Day.



Forum 'Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity' - Mrs. Delia Javanasundara, Advisor, WFWP-Thailand is one of the speaker together with Mrs. Supaporn Matsui.

Vienna/Education, contd from pg. 5

health & nutrition, distance & security, discrimination may cover a number of reasons. Many obstacles to attendance are preventable when parents understand the benefits of prioritizing their children's education. The SG's Initiative, "Education First" is 3 fold: put every child in school, improve the quality of learning and foster global citizenship. Education cannot be judged by information given, but by the impact it will have on the quality of life of the recipient and those they influence. Informal family education determines life choices more than any other factor - educating the heart & character. The Right to Education (Article 26: UDHR) states clearly that, "Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and strengthening of human rights and fundamental freedoms." Families provide a values framework for building empathy and love, a necessary core component in any institution within a peaceful culture. When women see themselves as leaders in society, just as they are in their families, a dramatic paradigm change will take place. I propose and speak for "family-archy" as a new framework for peace.

Dr. Lan Young Moon: "Education towards Global Citizenship." In Dec 1948, 3 years after the establishment of the UN, the Human Rights Declaration was proclaimed. There was so much hope attached to this declaration: "We are brothers & sisters and we all are entitled to the same rights!" If all people would keep to these principles, how safe the world would be! Visiting many countries as the President of WFWP International. I wanted to encourage their volunteer activities. Sometimes people really suffered from lack of material. The 8 development goals of the UN (MDG's) are very significant. 6 are relating directly to women. Our present reality is that we are witnessing the breakdown of so many families. Many

young people do not have the opportunity to receive a proper education. Some years ago, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, WFWPI founder, was invited to a meeting with Ban Ki-moon. He emphasized at least 30% of all decision-making leaders should be women. Further, she stressed the, "Importance of education in a family environment: from a young age children learn the heart relationships of and with their parents. If our children don't have enough experience in heartfelt relationships they will be unable to build loving families themselves."

Mr. Otmar Mittermayr by Magistrat 11: Youth Agency Wien on "Youth Participation." Children's Rights is my favorite theme. Why are these rights needed? Children depend on their parent's decisions. By definition, they are immature and they need special protection-which parents cannot always provide. The Rights of the Child came into force in 1989 with a UN Children's Rights Convention of 54 Articles. **Mag. Maria-Neuburger-Schmidt**, Parents workshop, reported on a youth conference, "Health of Children and Youth," organized by "Liga" in Vienna. "The quality, passion and atmosphere of this conference was great. When we hear "education" we think mostly about intellectual education. Reality is: there is no learning without emotional learning. We have to strengthen respect and liberty in learning. A website for more information that I'd like to recommend is: www.kindergesundheit.at."

The 3rd Session, chaired by **Mrs. Elizabeth Riedl**, WFWPI UN Vienna Liaison on "Educational tools and best practices" started with introducing the recent film from Jane Goodall's work as a UN Ambassador helping Youth to understand Ecology. Film provided by Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots.

Ewald Schenkermayr: Young Teacher at a UNESCO school, 15th district of Vienna.

International students have led to International projects: "The World & I" (2012) – workshops on various subjects are held often: like fairy tales from around the world, painting plates with symbols of peace, multi-cultural celebrations involving parents and children, or "Getting to know each other" day trips. This year students are enthusiastically creating a cooking book with recipes from all different countries.

Mr. Johann Rechberger, Nordic Walking Club founder: "Sports for Integration: Educating a village about healthy lifestyle." More than 10% of the population in Parndorf is Turkish or Croatian. Inspired by the Mayor's initiative, Mr. Rechberger promoted a fitness campaign that would involve Nordic walking. 30 attended the first meeting. While walking together twice a week for one hour, many new friendships developed. The local media wrote about the health benefits and also solving the integration problem.

A moving personal testimony on Syria and the plight of women and children was given by **Ms. Marie-Therese Kiriaky**, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and President of "Arab Women's Association." This organization works with Syrians in refugee camps at the border of Turkey; 6 million refugees, 9 million displaced people in Syria out of 22 million inhabitants. "We went to the Turkish-Syrian border and started to teach children in their mother tongue, Arabic instead of Turkish. We educated them about drugs and to protect themselves from sexual harassment. The most affected groups in a war situation are women and children, as well as minorities. In Syria in 2011, all children, including Christian children, were forced to study the Koran only. Raping and sexual harassment of women occur systematically in prison. After leaving

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led a "pair-share" so participants could converse with each other and share inspiration.

Ms. H. A. is a nonprofit and social innovation consultant who has provided consultation and assistance to several organizations and campaigns such as Echoing Green, and UNESCO, Pacem in Maribus 32: Women, Youth, and the Sea, and has served as an Advisory Board member of Summit on the Summit, an Initiative. Through her experience as an intern for the WFWPI UN-Office, as well as other UN delegations, Ms. A. has developed programs, managed interns and volunteers, and been heavily involved with several campaigns. Ms. A. holds a B.A., magna cum laude, in Economics and International Relations from Mount Holyoke College. Ms. A. is also the founder and author of a book project that promotes volunteerism and social entrepreneurship for the next generation. From her vast experiences and involvement in nonprofit organizations, Ms. A. discovered that the role of leadership requires one to be unaffected by anything, determined and resolved toward one's mission and vision, acting and responding with true love, and managing and evaluating oneself as well. Ms. Bengu reflected on Ms. A. story and explained that it was a good example of how preparation plus opportunity equals success.



Ms. Christelle K. Ngama is a Congolese refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo, and has lived in Bolton, United Kingdom for ten years. Ms. Ngama was born and raised in Goma, moved to Kenya, Tanzania

and then settled in the United Kingdom in July 2004. Ms. Ngama is currently studying law at the University of Bolton. In December 2014, she launched a campaign called Congo Rises to raise awareness about the unjust war in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where 6 million have lost their lives and rape is used as a weapon of war. Ms. Ngama first learned of rape and how to prevent a rape situation, at the young age of nine years old. Ms. Ngama as well as many students in the Democratic Republic of Congo, desire peace and safety for all citizens, and are very determined to speak out for their home country; despite the dangers. Ms. Ngama believes in the power of women, and that when women speak out on issues that affect their communities, then change can happen. Women uniting around a common vision have the power to make change.



Ms. Roudabeh Jamshid Eini is from Tehran, Iran. At a young age, Ms. Eini volunteered at a hospital in her home country, and realized then that education is necessary in order to understand and alleviate society's problems. Ms. Eini's education has taken her from Payam Noor University in Iran where she received her B.A. degree in English Translation, to Sapienza University in Rome for a B.A. in Modern Languages, and a participant in the Model UN as a young person. She is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Global Development and Peace at the University of Bridgeport, Connecticut. Ms. Eini was greatly encouraged and empowered by her mother, a strong, independent single woman, who said, "I will be happy in my life when I see that you are more successful than me. I tried to climb one hundred steps higher than the level of my mother, so you have to go at least

one thousand steps higher than me." Ms. Eini's formula for great achievements includes hard work, taking opportunities that come, having the determination to succeed and learn from others, and having the support of loved ones, especially the love from one's mother. Ms. Eini told a powerful story of perseverance.

Ms. Weronika Janczuk, Director of Education, World Youth Alliance Foundation graduated from New York University with a self-designed degree in the Philosophy of the Human Person. She was drawn to and inspired by the World Youth Alliance Foundation's core tenet that every person, every woman has dignity. The human dignity programs that World Youth Alliance Foundation initiates are vital for youth as the programs instill healthy identity and worldview. Ms. Janczuk stated that recognizing intrinsic dignity and beauty is the key to empowering others. Ms. Janczuk also presented research evidence that showed how the proper sexual health of every woman and girl needs to be considered; as well as introducing right sex education, taught to children at the right time. She introduced the WYAF Fertility Education and Medical Management (FEMM) curriculum, which teaches women and girls about who they are and how to care for themselves. Ms. Janczuk suggests that all women and girls need to be taught about how their bodies work, including the effects of emotions and hormones.



Lively conversation among participants, and between speakers and participants demonstrated the power of the panelists' stories to impact the audience members.



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us." Ms. Stephens stressed that if education is to best serve the goal of development, it must be accessible to all. It must allow girls and boys the opportunity to develop their capacities in all fields and at all levels. This includes not just formal education, but also informal education and vocational training. Education enables children and adults to attain knowledge about how the world works, about their value in society and about how they can positively contribute to their families and communities.

Following a lovely buffet lunch, **Professor Yeon Ah Moon, President of WFWPI** spoke about the unique vision of WFWPI and the importance of expanding its influence at the UN and gave the call to action for WFWP to go to the next level of leadership and collaboration with other NGOs to face and find solutions to the problems in the world. She presented a brief overview of the history of the organization, including participation of three hundred WFWP volunteers in the

4th World Women's Conference in Beijing in 1995. Professor Moon also reminded everyone of the founders' vision that this new era is the dawning for women's true dignity and leadership capacities to be realized. This paradigm that sets women together with men in governance and leadership is a culture of heart and vision, likened to a family. Families, bound together by their Creator, are the core, the model and the training ground of World Peace. She encouraged everyone to take the path of a true woman leader who will build a unified world where freedom, peace, and happiness in its truest sense, will overflow.

Prof. Moon graciously gave the platform to guest speaker, **Ms. Hazami Barmada, Communications Specialist at the Office of UN Secretary General's Envoy on Youth**. Ms. Barmada sent greetings on behalf of the UN Secretary General's Envoy on Youth, Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi. She commented on the high number of youth, or people under the age of 18 among the world's population and

expressed appreciation for WFWPI's efforts to empower young people and provide access for them, especially young women to the UN. This effort is aligned with the top priorities of the Envoy on Youth. She encouraged the audience to support and give these youth a voice.

The final speaker of the luncheon was **Mrs. Carolyn Handschin**, the director of the WFWPI UN Office. She emphasized the necessity of a motherly heart in creating world peace and WFWPI's ability to bring this role into the limelight. She also spoke on the need for WFWPI to have hard data to back up its projects and gain recognition for the work it has done. Mrs. Handschin reviewed the global portfolio of work of WFWPI in the context of the twelve critical priorities laid out in the Beijing Platform of Action, demonstrating that WFWPI members had initiated and are maintaining service projects that address each of these critical areas of concern. The framework and crux of her message were the importance of

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Session III



Session IV with the Ambassador of Costa Rica.

impressive, including : Stop the segregation of young people from adults and strengthen relationship between youth and decision-makers on all levels; and a systematic inclusion of ethical, non-formal, spiritual education to foster a culture of tolerance and respect.

SESSION II:

Family: Parenting, Modern challenges

Chaired by **Mag. Maria Neuberger Schmidt**, the first speaker was Family and Youth Counselling advisor, **Ms. Gabriele Zoehrer** who spoke on "Mothers Impact on children and Society." Mothers today are overwhelmed by their many responsibilities to care for their children, have a career and do the housework. Through breast feeding a hormone connected to bonding is released. A study made in the UK with 43,000 students from 1993-2006 showed that the mother's education has strongest impact on her child's choice of studies. Love and care from people of trust lead to security of the child. Also ethical and moral standards of elders have been shown to have a great impact.

Dr. Thomas Legl, "Families First" spoke on "Free Time Society vs. Education." He treats mental diseases and drug abuse. All prevention goes through families and education. Do we still give education in families or does technology do it? Positive aspects of social networking are: shy persons communicate and overcome fear; good ideas, like saving of environment get spread. Negative aspects, such as: isolation and secrecy; sextexting; bad ideas like self-harm, bullying or exploitation get spread. Too much information in a too short amount of time - information doesn't go to long-term memory - brain system is changing. Low strictness of parents supports the most risky online behaviour of children. Strict and warm in involvement is the best combination for healthy behaviour. Conclusion: 1) There should be a lot of socializing and enjoyable active family activities, 2) Parents need to keep themselves informed about the dangers of the internet; and 3) Technology can/should be used in a good way – e.g. for education.



Ms. Hannah Heikkila, of the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**, spoke about how her department has come to prioritize working with families in their drug prevention program, now called, "Family Skills Training." Parenting doesn't only directly influence drug abuse, but also self control and other healthy behaviours. "Parental monitoring" is knowing the whereabouts of their children with love, not just surveillance. How to engage and stay positive, be a good role model, have discipline? Just a two hour session already has a great impact (-50% conflict), which shows how little there is to do. This also prevents violence, increases academic achievement, mental and physical behaviour, and helps regulates sexual behaviour. The UNODC results are accessible on line. Governments like to sponsor the program.

SESSION III: Education in Practice

This session was an opportunity to meet recipients of Youth Education Ambassador's certificates. **Ms. Teresa Habjan**, Youth Advisory Board to the **Austrian Commission for UNESCO** introduced the ambassadors. **Mag. Maximilian Edelbacher, ACUNS Vice President**, Vienna chaired the session. **Ms. Helene Raab**, 18 years old spoke on behalf of all students, quoting Malala, who said, "One child, one teacher and one pen can change the world!". Many girls in developing countries do not get to attend school, having to help out at home. They walk long dangerous ways to school, because they see the value of education, that it can help them accomplish so many things. It would only cost 22 Billion USD to finance universal primary education.

Mag. Ulrike Lang, Board member, "Aktion Regen" spoke on "Knowledge as a chance."

Planning a family should be a woman's conscious choice. We train "multipliers" to work in sub-Saharan Africa; informing about the UN development goals; what is family planning, fertility awareness, early pregnancy, birth spacing, natural contraception, prevention of sickness, FGM and abuse. Our tools are easily understandable, reasonable, and touchable. Birth Control Necklace or Baby-Necklace, Mothers Health-Card: It's important to have 18 months between births. Girls Diary: for knowing how the women's body functions and making informed empowered choices. More information: www.aktionregen.at

The final speaker was **Mag. Edwige Hartig, City Councilor in Linz**. Her topic was "Girls, women's voices in society." She explained that she came to Austria from Cameroon when she was 7. She became a mother at 17, but fortunately still had the chance to attend school because the Austrian system very much encourages education. She worked hard and became politically active due to a few integration issues. In 2009, she was elected as a city councilor. She is currently working on two projects: "Frau macht Media" for young women to gain the skills to create radio/video broadcasts; and the other program called "neighbors" that provides further education to immigrants.

Session IV: Intercultural Education

The session was chaired by **Mr. Peter Haider**, SG of Universal Peace Federation, Austria. It began with a video statement on "The Post 2015 UN road to dignity and justice through intercultural education for women and children" by **Dr. jur. hab. Slawomir Redo**, UN Senior Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice expert. Currently, there are 2.5 billion women educated in Confucian, Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim and other non-Western values. Look at the cast system, although abolished, the mentality remains. Intercultural education is a way. Notions of dignity and justice are evolving, it is an opportunity to get it right. Inclusivity should permeate the classroom through social sciences and history. Failures are easily transmitted to the next generation. Concerning the good work of WFWPI: 1) continue to stress that peace is a precondition to justice and dignity by strengthening universal human values and 2) among these values, one is cardinal at a practical level, namely that peace in the world starts with peace at home. Inequality, inequity, intolerance, cultural or domestic violence, but also crime prevention starts in our bedrooms and homes and then goes into the streets, kindergartens, schools, parliaments and peoples.

H.E. Pilar Saborio de Rocafort, Costa Rica Ambassador gave a very insightful explanation of the evolution of women's role in family, education and society since the early 1800's

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WFWPI Internship Program

Geneva

The Important Moment for Making Conclusive Decisions

Action on Resolutions at the Human Rights Council - March 2015

By Jimin Millet, WFWPI Intern in Geneva

The 28th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council took place from March 2 - 27, 2015. The program of work consisted of daily side-events, general debates, annual high-level panel on many different subjects, such as death penalty, the right of the child, the right of the person with disabilities, and more. The 4 weeks were precious spent for discussions and debates where many ideas were brought to the table and where many questions were answered, and many more raised. All of that is, in fact, a long procedure of preparation for the final voting at the Human Rights Council - which will take place at the very end of the session.

The last two days are fully dedicated to finalizing the decisions to be taken on all that has been discussed. There are fewer side-events and most of the participants can be found at the Human Rights Council plenary room. It is an important part of the program because it is the time when the issues that have been debated become conclusive: what needs to be done? It is also the part to be taken back to our organization's chapters and to our government at home so that we can work together (advocacy) to live up to those commitments.

The new comers to the UN, such as interns, may not realize that it is a significant part of the schedule. They may not know that voting for action on the resolutions is taking place. At the beginning of my internship, I was not aware of it. I tried to attend every side-event of interest to WFWPI. As the weeks passed by, there were fewer and fewer side events. Consequently, I thought the session was simply coming to an end. However, I realized only later during my second internship how the voting system really works and how important it is. The hall is overflowing during those periods of Action on the draft Resolutions because governments must be present to have a vote.

Why is it so important and how does it function? The resolutions that are passed influence the governments from around the world to change. It is their homework. It is also the final time to listen to the opinions of peers that have been forming throughout the session, which may even change a nation's final vote.

The voting is carefully guided by the Human Rights Council President, who announces each numbered "draft resolution." Each nation's Ambassador has the right to express a few thoughts about the significance of the issue,

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WFWPI Interns at the UN in Geneva: Jimin Millet (International Relations Studies) and Linda Martin (Engineer).

New York Youth Involvement

Mentoring the Next Generation - February 2015

By Heather Tamae Fraser-Harris



Among the many exciting changes that the Women's Federation for World Peace, International (WFWPI) has been experiencing, is the generational shifts that have been taking place. When I joined the WFWPI UN team as the Administrator for the UN office based in New York, in October 2014, I was showered with warm welcomes and excited smiles. It's a unique experience to feel needed and wanted in a working environment, and even more so, being a simple recent graduate with a Bachelor's degree and minimal professional experience. However, I am gradually coming to realize that small contributions can actually be part of a much broader phenomenon than we often are aware of, and that many times we represent a position, or perhaps a moment in time, that opens up a door for change.

Youth involvement is currently one of the major themes at the United Nations and, as an NGO in general consultative status, WFWPI is making large strides to move along with

this agenda. It is also the current emphasis made by both the WFWPI Founder and the International President, who have highlighted the need to engage a new generation and to raise them up as future leaders of the world. Youth are, in many cases, very much aware of the reality on the ground; they observe their surroundings and are able to identify the problems that a society is facing; they seek for innovative and relevant methods to treat and resolve these issues; and at the same time they are also capable of dreaming bigger dreams, of more easily overcoming barriers and reaching broader scopes through technology, and of looking at the world as one global family.

That being said, having grown up in the Middle East where revering elders is a crucial element of the culture, and through having parents that I deeply respect and look up to, I am pushed to believe that youth can only really become future leaders through a healthy mentoring process where they are taught and trained to not only be intelligent, fearless and confident, but also to be righteous, kind and to have integrity. This type of mentorship is not one that focuses solely on developing technical

skills, but also one that highlights a growth in heart and consciousness towards other people and the planet. As a young adult working at WFWPI I feel that I am given a unique opportunity to be mentored by women leaders from around the world who in their own right have made fascinating efforts to impact the world through responding to the needs of the communities they are in, and by investing in becoming better daughters, sisters, wives and mothers to those around them. I am honored to be a student, learning from their experiences and inheriting their foundation.

In our work in New York, we are making an effort to engage and mentor youth through including them as interns in the UN New York Office. I work together with several young adults including Youngsoo Quinn, a 23 year old graduate student at the Unification Theological Seminary, who is currently serving as the DPI youth intern for WFWPI. Roudabeh Jamshid Eini, a Masters candidate of the Global Development and Peace program at the University of Bridgeport, who was born

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For more information about projects, see
Biennial Reports at www.wfwp.org

Geneva Interns, contd from pg. 11

which they often do in clusters. For the 47 current members of the Council (membership rotates in cycles of 3 years, decided by the General Assembly by geographic allotment), they usually use their time to explain briefly the vote they will be making. Then the chance of speaking is yielded to another country. The 47 countries that have voting rights then have their positions recorded on a large board: yes, no or abstention. The outcome is announced, more often than not, as expected. With some hard won battles, there may be clapping or sighs of relief. There is often consensus by all, "adopted without a vote," which is the hoped - for goal of the many meetings that had been going on privately or publicly during the session – or even the pre-session period.

For example, last September 2014, a HRC Resolution on the "Protection of the Family" was adopted for the first time in history; they acknowledged its key role as a fundamental group unit of society and promote the policies to enhance the atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding for the development of the children as well as its members. In respect to the adopted resolution, the governments are responsible to consider this in their national policies. Such a procedure is the final result of the efforts exerted throughout the sessions. This particular resolution was fought for and was not accepted unanimously. This is an important reason for NGO's like WFWPI who favor the resolution to be present and to continue to work with their governments to influence opinions and support the processes of implementation at home.

Therefore, I recommend to the future interns not to miss this moment of fruition. Voting is, in point of fact, a fundamental act of human rights and a most crucial procedure to have knowledge about.



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methodology, our own platform of action; and advocacy, the talking points that are central to our world view, the combination of which can be leveraged to create and develop the portfolio that represents WFWPI's impact on the world and its effort to contribute substantially to a true and peaceful global family.

The luncheon concluded with a presentation of gifts to the speakers and dignitaries, including handmade kites by **Japanese kitemaker, Mrs. Tokuko Sato.**



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prison, women are sometimes killed by their own families because they are seen to have brought shame to them. This seldom gets into the news. We built a shelter for such women. What is happening at this border is shameful for humanity. The world is just ignoring it. Only small NGOs like ours are helping at this time. No big help by nations. Half of all displaced people are children. We are losing one generation."



New York Interns, contd from pg. 11

and raised in Iran, is another intern who works on research efforts related to WFWPI's role as an NGO in general consultative status with ECOSOC. Also, Nandi Bengu, WFWP, USA Chairwoman in Harlem, New York, is a young adult UN representative.

These ladies are required to attend regular UN briefings that cover a wide range of topics, that allow them to become more thoroughly aware of and involved in the UN agenda. It is also an opportunity for networking. Beyond that, they also work alongside a number of other WFWPI UN representatives who are involved with several different committees with CONGO, the Committee of NGOs that affiliates with the UN.

Youth comprise one quarter of the world's population and, in the words of H.E. Mr. Martin Sadjik, President of the UN Council of Economic and Social Affairs, in his opening remarks at the ECOSOC Youth Forum in February 2015, "the question is no longer is youth involvement necessary, but how can it be strengthened?" Mentorship, as well as providing accessible supportive structures, is crucial for youth. The WFWPI internships that are being developed are intended to allow interns to gain advocacy skills at the UN, to contribute a much needed voice, and also to connect and learn from their elders.

It's a good time to be a young adult and to have this intentional support from world leaders and from the UN. It is important that in return, we the youth, remember that we are representing a generation, and that stepping into the roles that we have been given, as challenging as they may be at times, is a move towards supporting this exciting transition. I for one am grateful to be a part of it.



Girls' Education, contd from pg. 5

(1821 independence) in her nation. Education was at first for the economic elite, who became the political elite. Women were sent to separate schools, but were key figure in the education of future good citizens. Later with reforms, universal suffrage, girls' education became important - also as future educators.

Prof. Elisabeth Stanners, Secondary School Principal, Vienna International School spoke on "Character education is a necessity for world peace." "I am a mother and grandmother, who welcomes 800 students each day, all expected to become leaders! Our statutes take into account the spirit and principles embodied in the UN Charter and Declaration of Human Rights; shape young people who understand their role in creating peace. Our curriculum promotes a broad range of religious and political beliefs; and where students should think about how to give back to society. Links closely to character education, very well studied topic in recent years; but teachers really need to think how to apply it. To know a person's academic achievement, but also know them as an individual, so after mistakes they can reflect and learn from it. Free to hold own opinions, but not free to damage other people. Our teachers often do not feel that they have the power to manage such a broad curriculum." See: www.mindfulnessschools.org

And the final presentation of the day was by **Mag. Neuberger-Schmidt** who spoke about the Welt Ethos: "Intercultural education in Kindergarten" project developed by Mag Edith Riether. Objectives of the program are to raise awareness of different values and to learn ethical principles playfully together. Hans Küng, World Ethos founder had asked what are the universal principles of humankind? He recognized the Golden Rule as the most generally accepted, most concise core principle. The answer to "why ethics in kindergarten" was, "the earlier the better". www.weltethos.at



Upcoming Events

- ❖ April 10 WFWP 23rd Anniversary
- ❖ May 26-29 WFWPI 19th Women's Conference for Peace in the Middle East
- ❖ May 15 Int'l Day of Families
- ❖ May 18-22 24th Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention & Criminal Justice
- ❖ June 15 - July 3 Human Rights Council 29th Session in Geneva
- ❖ Aug. 12 International Youth Day
- ❖ Sep. 15-28 70th Session of UN General Assembly
- ❖ Oct. 16 World Food Day
- ❖ Oct. 17 Int'l Day of Eradication of Poverty
- ❖ Oct. 24 United Nations Day
- ❖ TBA WFWP 15th Int'l Leaders Workshop