

UN International Day of Families

The Hague, The Netherlands, 17. May 2014



On Saturday, May 17, Universal Peace Federation Nederland (UPF-NL) and the Dutch chapter of the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP-NL) jointly celebrated the "UN International Day of Families +20" under the designated theme "Families matter for the Achievement of Development Goals".

The 42 participants included Global Peace Council Member Dr. Willem van Eekelen and his wife and a total of six UPF Ambassadors for Peace, four members of the emerging UPF Youth Department, new guests and UPF activists.

Rita Salaris, WFWP-NL President and UPF-NL Representative in The Hague commented:

"Through this day the UN encourages us to invite other organisations/ foundations and persons to celebrate this day together, to point out the difficulties and be grateful for accomplishments in history.

"The presence of participants representing various religions and ethnic / cultural backgrounds made the event vibrant. The speakers were interesting, especially in view of their particular approach of the theme: from talking about the Christian European heritage and analyzing the serious threats to the family unit to the detailed scenario of a child torn apart because of her loyalty to her divorced parents, explained through the method of Contextual Therapy approach of family therapy and individual psychotherapy according to Ivan Boszormenyi-Nagy; and from the powerful warning of the threat of "modernity" and "secularism" to "the sacred institution of family and firm, rich and pious faith in religion", to a clear exposition of Reverend Sun Myung Moon's teaching about the significance of the family.

We learnt much from the speakers and the audience was inspired to meet other people and organizations dedicated to promoting the importance of family values."