

WFWP South London's Commemoration of UN International Day of Peace 2024

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Focus on Middle East and North Africa

"We are one family under one God and a parental God would want to help all his or her children", responded Mr. David Fraser Harris, UPF Secretary General for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, when asked how the relief efforts supported by UPF were related to its founding principles of peace. His presentation was one of the highlights of a joint Universal Peace Federation (UPF) and Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) commemoration of the UN International Day of Peace held at the Peace Embassy in Thornton Heath, London, on 21 September 2024, organized by the respective South London branches and attended by a packed audience of nearly 50 participants.



Mrs. Annerose Adams, coordinated the proceedings as MC, and opened the programme by introducing the hosting organisations and the background behind the annual commemoration of the significant UN day, which this year has the designated theme of "Cultivating a Culture of Peace". The formal presentations began with Dr Mitchell Eboigbe of the Brotherhood of Cross and Star explaining how the MENA region has contributed historically to the development of civilization and exhorting us to live in peace and unity with one another based on the possession of love that regards every person as an extension of oneself. Mr. David Fraser Harris then expanded on the wide range of relief projects undertaken by UPF and its partners including WFWP to provide much-needed assistance to people affected by recent natural and man-made disasters in Morocco, Libya, Turkey, Syria and Gaza.

He explained how various logistical challenges were surmounted to deliver aid especially through the active cooperation of UPF's network of Ambassadors for Peace on the ground. Mrs. Siew Lian Gardiner, on behalf of Sally Becker, 'Save A Child' spoke about the remarkable successful evacuation of injured and sick children from Gaza to Italy for medical treatment together with its partners including Project Pure Hope and the Egyptian Ministry of Health. Mr. Mekki Elsayed concluded the section with his heartfelt presentation on the plight of his home country of Sudan, which has been riven by division, corruption and conflict leading to a tragic humanitarian crisis that needs active international attention and action.

In the second section of the event, two inspiring public readings taken from the memoirs of the hosting organisations' founders, Father and Mother Moon, by Mrs. Martina Coombs, former WFPW president, and Mr. Adrian Lee, UPF committee member, demonstrated the path to bring peace in our nations and communities through the parental heart of forgiveness. The programme was enriched by accomplished vocalist Caroline Fredriksson, who beautifully sang "Pie Jesu" by Andrew Lloyd Webber and "How Great Thou Art" by Carl Boberg. Mrs. Dolores Read, South London WFPW chairperson, announced the raising of funds for peace projects in the Middle East through donations and the sale of hand-made cards at the event. The participants all thoroughly enjoyed each other's company and fellowship over tea and refreshments following the formal conclusion of proceedings.

Report by Lance Gardiner, South London UPF Coordinator



Report on UPF/WFPW South London- UN International Day of Peace 2024.

On September 21, 2024, the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) and Women's Federation for World Peace (WFPW) held a commemorative event for the UN International Day of Peace at the Peace Embassy in Thornton Heath, London. The gathering, attended by nearly 50 participants, spotlighted the theme "cultivating a Culture of Peace." Mr. David Fraser Harris, UPF Secretary General for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, emphasized the organization's relief efforts as extensions of its peace-building principles, highlighting UPF's initiatives in response to recent disasters in Morocco, Libya, Turkey, Syria, and Gaza. He described the logistical challenges overcome through the cooperative efforts of UPF's Ambassadors for Peace. Dr. Mitchell Eboigbe underscored the MENA region's historical contributions to civilization and urged unity based on love. Mrs. Siew Lian Gardiner shared the successful evacuation of injured children from Gaza to Italy for medical treatment, showcasing collaboration with organizations like Save A Child. Mr. Mekki Elsayed poignantly discussed the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Sudan, calling for international attention.

The event also included public readings from the memoirs of Father and Mother Moon, promoting peace through forgiveness, read by Mrs. Martina Coombs and Mr. Adrian Lee.

Musical interludes featured vocalist Caroline Fredriksson. The chairperson of South London WFWP, Mrs. Dolores Read, announced fundraising efforts for peace projects in the Middle East. Participants enjoyed fellowship and refreshments, making the event both meaningful and communal.

