

WED



WOMEN IN EUROPE WFWP Youth Europe Newsletter



Overview of Activities 2013/14

Introduction

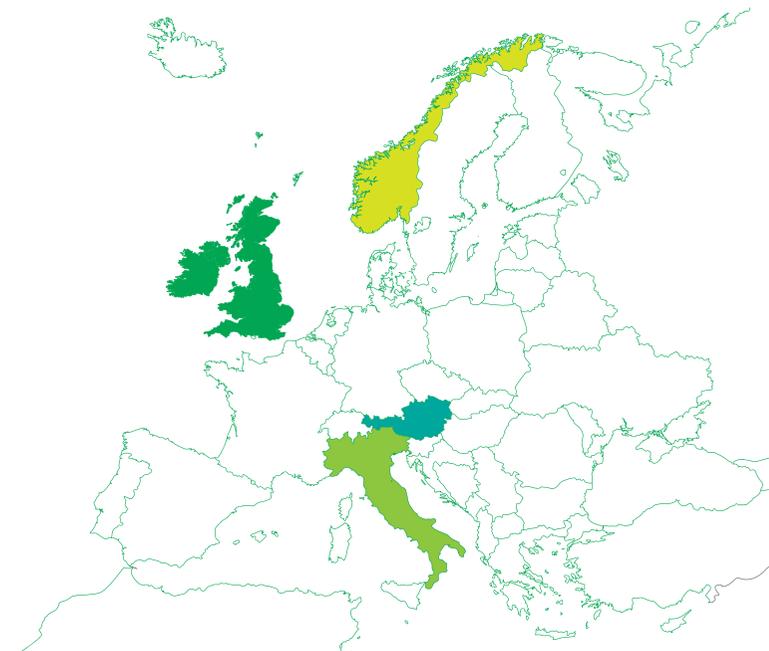
Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) was founded with a spirit of being more than just another women's organisation. Rather than women campaigning solely for their rights, the founder, Hak Ja Han Moon, envisioned WFWP as a global peace movement where women can find their place and take leadership in creating a harmonious world.

Since its youthful beginnings from 1992, we see the organisation now turning 22 years old, having matured with an immensely broad scope of activities and projects for the realisation of peace. Like a coming of age, it is visible that activities of young women in WFWP have been developing, bringing some fresh air to the organisation. In some places this has been in the form of more youth involvement in the organisation and events of WFWP, and in other places the young women have been developing initiatives of their own, trying to discover their own voice. Whatever form it currently takes, the ultimate direction is the same; towards a future of togetherness, not just as women, but as a universal human family, which we are learning to embrace through the work and ideals of WFWP.

In this first newsletter we would like to give an impression of the range of WFWP Youth activities that have been taking place in the last year particularly, as well as the motivating impulse that has brought on these initiatives. We invite you to join the cultural movement of heart!

Who and Where We Are

Here are some of the places and faces of where the action has been happening recently...



UK: Keishin Hoshiko, Asmah Anis, Christelle Kyora Ngama

Italy: Elena Chirulli, Carmen Rizzi, Daniela Cali

Austria: Elisabeth Wolf, Marinela Stefanc, Yoshiko Pammer

Norway: Johanna Toresen, Yun-a Johnson, Marea Perea-Toresen

Get in touch!

All chapters have an active Facebook group.

If you want to get in touch with a local chapter or would like information on anything else, please contact:

Yoshiko Pammer (WFWP Youth Europe focal point)

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Contents

Norway.....	
UK.....	
Austria.....	
Italy.....	
WFWP Internships at the UN.....	
Cooperation with Youth UPF.....	
WFWP International conference 2013.....	
Words from Hak Ja Han Moon.....	

NORWAY

Bridging the Generations

In the past year in Norway, the youth of WFWP have been working hand in hand with its veterans, to form one organization that shares responsibility and works together to strengthen the foundation of the movement. The board of 2014 consists of three younger and three elder women with Vigdis Parkins at the reigns. Appropriately, this year's focus has been centred on bridging the generational gap. Through various events we have sought to bring together women of all ages and backgrounds for our mutual health, wellness, and understanding.

International Women's Day - "Young Women Form the Future" 8.3.2014

The International Women's Day event was beautifully prepared by both young and old, and many came from all over Norway. The speeches were short and captivating. Margoth Kalstad and Turid Matsdal giving the history of International Women's Day in a creative dialogue. The main speaker, Rana Abusamra, immersed us in her story of her experiences both in Gaza and as an asylum seeker in Norway. Afterwards, the entertainers came and brought a new energy to the room. We had two lovely singers, a joke that left all the women chuckling, and an electric African dance group that got several people out of their seats to dance with them.

At the end of the main program, we held a Bridge of Peace ceremony to bridge the generation gap. The young met the "not so young anymore" on the bridge, embraced, gave each other an origami heart and walked off together hand in hand. About 20 pairs participated. Afterwards, we enjoyed food from all around the world that the guests had brought from their home cultures and several danced the night away in an intergenerational dance. A special moment was when a little toddler came onto the dance floor and led everyone in her own version of The Twist.



Health Workshop - "An Oasis in the Everyday Life" 29.3.2014

With this event we started a series of popular health workshops. Participants can choose between various 30min treatments including massage, reflexology, Gestalt therapy, and Reiki. Between treatments, participants can eat, socialize, and relax in the sun. Halfway through the day, inspirational coach and therapist, Barbro Hegland, gives the next part of her lecture series about understanding and attaining oneness and balance between the body and soul.

The purpose of these monthly meetings is to relax and heal body and soul, to regain energy and deepen friendships. To set it up many women from different ages, beliefs and cultural backgrounds volunteer their heart and expertise to make it a relaxing day for all.

Culture Evening - "Japan" 27.09.2014

The evening was divided into three parts: learning how to make origami cranes, learning how to make sushi and a fun presentation of Japan from a tourists' perspective. There was also a musical performance of two Japanese Pop songs. The variety of activities helped participants bond together in a fun and relaxed atmosphere.



UNITED KINGDOM

Solving Problems One Coffee at a Time

The UK has been developing a series of activities with and for the young women since 2011 with its “Women of Tomorrow” workshops. Since then, they have started regular “Coffee Meetings” and have held a few events at the Houses of Parliament in partnership with other organisations. There are now two WFWP Youth chapters, one in London and one in Bolton, Manchester.

London Coffee Meetings

We had our first coffee meeting in July 2013 and have had 4 more since then. We had themes of a high tea, sushi making, American cooking and craft, all of which also contained internal content, discussions or testimonies about Women’s Federation. The most recent coffee morning was in support of WFWP Jordan and we covered notebooks with fabric to make fundraising product to raise money for the women’s training centre in Jordan. Out of the young people in the UK that already know about WFWP most of them admitted to not knowing very much about what WFWP really is at the core and what the point was or why it started.

The very beginnings of Women’s Federation started with these informal get-togethers and in the same way have been beneficial by doing something small and regular, no matter what the size. It has been important to start gaining momentum and meeting together as young women regularly to learn each other’s interests, concerns and ideas.



First coffee meeting, “High Tea”



Original Value Workshops

A series of 3 workshops were held on the “Original Value of Women.”

Conferences at the Houses of Parliament

WFWP Youth have hosted and spoken at a number of events at the Houses of Parliaments, also sometimes organised in collaboration with other organisations.

April 25th 2013 - “Young Women’s Global Voices” event organised in collaboration with NAWO

July 10th 2013 - “Youth Achievement Awards”

Nov 26th 2013 - “Importance of Education for the Elimination of Violence Against Women”



Young Women’s Global Voices event



Bolton, Manchester

Bolton initiated a WFWP young women’s group, which since June 2013 has been meeting regularly, on a monthly basis. Since inviting the Women’s Community Development Officer from “Bolton at Home” to one of their meetings, the group was offered to use the Christine Partington House, a community centre for women in Bolton, for their meetings, free of charge.

Some topics from the meetings have been...

“How can woman be enabled to break the poverty cycle and have the same rights as men?”

“WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A WOMAN?”

Inauguration event for WFWP Youth Manchester

Although WFWP Youth Manchester had been having monthly meetings for a while, we had never done anything official and this was the reason behind our inauguration which was held on Saturday 14th December 2013. It was such a delightful evening attended by about 30 people.

It started with welcome remarks by Kyora, followed by a brief introduction about the WFWP, including the main goals and targets. Kyora then went on to explain her personal reasons for initiating the Youth branch as well as working with the main WFWP, which is already active in Manchester. She also talked about the things we would like to do in 2014.

Kyora sharing in one of their meetings



Head, Heart and Hands" exercise



Inauguration event of WFWP Youth Manchester



The event was held in Harper Green School, and as internet access was poor we were unable to watch the prepared video “Pray the Devil Back to Hell,” but Kyora explained what it was about and how it related to the organisation. She also spoke about membership and at the event five women officially joined. The first part of the evening ended by reading an extract entitled “The Coming Culture of Women” from a Peace Message from Rev. Moon which states:

“You have truly come to a meaningful occasion today. Please do not miss your chance to ride on to surging currents of heavenly fortune during this important and sacred jubilee year. Take the lead in protecting and developing the realm of the oceans, which cover seventy-five percent of the earth. Where else will you find undiscovered treasure-stores of natural resources that hold the promise to resuscitate the earth endangered by all kinds of population and resource depletion? Now the oceanic era has begun. The oceanic era represents the era of women. The culture of the oceanic sphere constitutes the original women’s culture, transcending all nations and spanning the seven seas. To create this culture, all women should unite in heart and make concerted action under the guidance of True Mother. They should fulfil their missions, taking the lead in pursuing triumphantly through every obstacle to give birth to this new civilisation that will transcend the Pacific Rim civilisation. Please take this to heart.”

The second part of the evening started with a group photo and was followed by a variety of delicious food. Watching how everyone got involved to make this a successful event made us realise that in a way this is what the Women’s Federation for World Peace is about; Women from completely different backgrounds working together for a common goal.

AUSTRIA

Mothers and Daughters Becoming Sisters

As in the UK, we have created on-going “Coffee Meetings” as a place where the young women can connect with each other, as well as with the generation of women above them (“mothers” and “daughters”) to share based on different topics, strengthen their sense of sisterhood and develop more understanding of WFWP’s vision and work.

Taking turns to host the meetings in each other’s homes and supporting each time with edible offerings, has helped us to develop a culture of preparing, sharing, and caring.

Coffee Meetings

26th May 2013: First Coffee Meeting - Sharing from Renate Amesbauer, WFWP Austria president, about WFWP’s focal areas and actions, and discussing our interests for activities as young women

25th Aug 2013: Second Coffee Meeting - Sharing about Hak Ja Han Moon’s life, vision for peace and style of leadership, as well as how we see the future and our marriage relationships, and read part of “The establishment of the Abel Women UN” speech together.

1st Nov 2013: “The Heart behind WFWP” - Talk by Dr. Maria Riehl, first WFWP president in Austria, shared about “The Heart Behind WFWP”, giving insight to the roles women have played historically, and about Mother Moon's accomplishment becoming a woman her husband could trust 100%

28th Jan 2014: “Laugh your Way”- Watching and discussing the DVD seminar “Laugh your way to a better marriage” by Mark Gungor, understanding and appreciating our differences as men and women

6th April 2014: “Mother and Mission” – Kathrin Ladstätter talked about her experiences raising her family in Russia during Communism, while her husband was active in VOC (Victory Over Communism) work, and she shared about the books which helped her during this time.



UN Vienna working groups: Younger voices sharing their expertise

The young women are often given the opportunity to speak in WFPW events, and notably in the on-going working meetings WFPW has held at the UN on the topic “Education in the 21st Century: Bringing 27 million children to school”, at least one young person is usually on the speakers panel as well as actively participating in the meeting. Océane Haider gave a presentation about pre-natal education at one of the Education meetings at the UN. Yoshiko Pammer also gave a talk at the WFPW Christmas party about the value of family and the conflicted identity of women in an age where career is valued over family.

Océane speaking about pre-natal education



Young teachers and mothers participating



Working groups



WFPW Austria team



ITALY

Flying the Flag Together

In Italy, the young women have been well integrated into many of WFPW's activities, often in supporting roles with media jobs (photography, video, audio), publicizing the events, inviting other young people, and have helped to maintain the upkeep of online resources such as the WFPW Facebook page.



Bergamo

On 28th Sept 2014, WFPW Bergamo arranged a lecture entitled "Being a Woman. Discovering the female body" which was given by Dr. Anna Maria Mussato. This was the 3rd event organized for and by the youth. It was dedicated especially to the young women, in order for them to better understand their own body in its complexity.

The title was inspired by the following phrase, attributed to William Shakespeare:

"The woman came out of a man's rib. Not from his feet to be trampled on, not from his head to be superior, but from his side to be equal. Under the arm to be protected and next to the heart to be loved."



Padua

Elena Chirulli, the main active young member of WFWP Padua, generally helps her mother who is the local WFWP president, with the construction of events and a number of other tasks. Elena has also represented WFWP, the last two years, in the Equal Opportunities Commission of the City of Padua (organ administration)

Jan - March: WFWP traditionally hold a ceremony for the first-born baby of the year (on a city, regional and national level). Elena takes care of the media communication and photos for these events.

March 2014: The WFWP Youth attended the "tree ceremony" donated by WFWP-Padua to the city and dedicated (with a small plate) to all the women who are committed to the promotion of peace, family and true values.

April 2014: International Women's Day. The 17th anniversary was presented by WFWP-Padua in collaboration with the municipality and province of Padua and the FFWPU and FIDH Italy (350 present). During the show, awareness was raised for the beauty of diversity and the need to feel part of "One world family". WFWP presented itself and Ambassadors for Peace were nominated. The donations were collected for the Philippines, having recently been devastated by natural disasters. The WFWP Youth (as well as boys) were very active, helping to welcome the public, distribute gifts and WFWP material, collect donations, sell raffle tickets and distribute multi-ethnic foods offered to the public by WFWP.

May 2014: The WFWP was part of the organization of the city's "Festival of Nations" event that for 25 years has involved the various associations of Padua on one day in the biggest square in Europe (Prato della Valle) as a sign of peace and brotherhood. The young people were present at the location of the WFWP and also helped in managing the catering area of the party.

May 2014: Elena was included in the educational programme of a project created and organized by the Association Igea, founded by the Ambassador for Peace, Chiara Forcella. She was able to present WFWP to 15 upper classes in 4 schools in the city (a total of about 350-400 students). The theme presented by WFWP was the dignity of women.

June 2014: Global Parent's Day. The WFWP and youth decided to be present on the streets with information and promotional material. We combined one project which a family in the community leads together with a family in Brazil. We thought that supporting this family would be a little bit like being 'parents' and so we decided to promote the project during the same celebration. For those who were interested, we introduced the WFWP and offered them to support the family.

June 2014: WFWP and the young people participated in a city procession organized by the Basilica of St. Anthony. Participation was by invitation, and we joined the parade with our WFWP flag.

September 2014: International Peace Day: WFWP Youth helped to organize the conference and the dinner for members, friends and Ambassadors for Peace.

September 2014: Volunteer Day: WFWP was included in the list of the regional Centre for Voluntary Service and took part in the traditional presentation of the associations and in the advertising material. The involvement of the youth was positive.



Elena and her mother with the tree donated by WFWP to the city



Education in schools



Elena: presentation on the dignity of women



Volunteer Day

WFWP INTERNSHIPS AT THE UN Experiencing what is behind the term “Human Rights”

WFWPI's UN Office in Geneva concluded its 7th internship program last year, which included participation at the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the Commission on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Committee. Working since 2008 to give bright young women and university students an opportunity to experience the work of the United Nations first hand and interact with its various elements, it is invariably a life-changing experience for them.

Over a period of 5 weeks during the summer of 2013, interns attended ECOSOC sessions and side events covering a broad expanse of issues within the theme: *“Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals”*.

Each diligently made daily reports, composed journalistic articles and prepared a personal project based upon their experience during the period. The group this year chose to produce a group project that involved a formal Roundtable Discussion among themselves and the program coordinator on the topic *“The Future of the United Nations Economic and Social Council: My Assessment and Recommendations”*. This was filmed during one of the seminars organized for them at the WFWPI Office in Lausanne, closing with the graduation ceremony and reception of certificates.

Jimin Park Millet (Switzerland), Intern 2014

“Before the internship, I wasn’t aware of many of the issues discussed at the HRC session. But, as I learn about them, I realize that it is very important to raise awareness - something anyone can and should do. The problems continue to exist because people are not aware of them. Thereafter, I made a resolution to teach the people around me about the issues I learned at UN as much as possible. I think that the ignorance leads to pain, the pain leads to disaster and the disaster leads to ignorance. In order to break such a vicious circle, we need genuine attention from every single person. Indeed, every big change starts from the small action we make.”

Jimin made a short video documentary as a personal project for her internship, which highlights lessons learnt her experience and the need for awareness of human rights. This can be found on the WFWP Europe website: www.wfwp-europe.org



Carolyn Handschin (centre) with some of the young women interns

Carolyn Handschin, as well as being WFWP Europe president, is WFWPI UN Representative in Geneva, and manages the internship programme.

COOPERATION WITH YOUTH UPF

(Universal Peace Federation)

Joining Forces for a Peaceful Future

WFWP Youth and UPF Youth put together a joint application for the European Youth Event (EYE) 2014, which was a big event held by the European Parliament to engage the youth of Europe in discussions about the future. The conference was held in Strasbourg in May 8-11th 2014, and attended by around 3000 young people.

Eight representatives from Youth UPF and WFWP Youth attended, from Austria, Finland, France, Germany and Italy, two of which were young women representing WFWP, Carmen Rizzi and Viola O'Hara.



The group’s highlights from the EYE 2014 can be found on the Youth UPF blog: youthupf.wordpress.com

WFWP INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2013

Leading the Women of the World

Every year WFWP Europe holds a conference to meet, share and plan, and on 7-10th October 2013, the conference was held in London.

This was the first time we could have a substantial attendance of young women at a European WFWP conference. Six young women (from UK, Austria, Italy, Norway) attended the whole programme as participants, and four others attended partially or in the function as translation staff.

The young women contributed to the conference by moderating two sessions, and also by organising and hosting the World Café session, which was a dynamic and interactive series of discussions for the whole conference group.

The young women were also invited to a personal sharing with Yeon Ah Moon, who is now WFWP International President. This was an incredibly precious experience, where we were free to ask any questions, and could hear very personal stories and insights from her about her work, but also about being a wife and mother. The conference was an amazing opportunity to connect with women from all the international WFWP chapters, to learn about the variety of projects going on, and to create a shared vision and goals for 2020.

After the conference our young women set up a “WFWP Youth Europe” Facebook group to keep in touch with each other and share ideas.



Sharing with Yeon Ah Moon



Young women moderators



World Café discussion



Session at Houses of Parliament



Our Challenge at This Time: Building a World of Lasting Peace

Hak Ja Han Moon (August 10, 2014)

The following is an extract from a speech given by WFWP's founder, Hak Ja Han Moon, earlier this year, given at a "World Summit" conference in Seoul, Korea.

What does it take to transform the world and achieve peace?

In accordance with God's will, my husband and I spent over five decades, during the prime of our lives, dedicating ourselves and our family to bringing about a spiritual and moral awakening as the foundation for global transformation. Spiritual and moral principles do not exist for their own sake. Their purpose is to form the basis for life in this world. That is, these divine principles are to infuse all sectors of society, including not only religion, but the spheres of government, trade and commerce, education, academia, the media, culture and the arts, and, most importantly, family life.

The substantial foundation my husband and I established did not come about magically or by some stroke of luck. It requires total commitment, unceasing effort, alignment with God's providence and investment in all sectors, from the grass roots to the centers of cultural, religious, economic and political power...

The Age of Women: Women, too, have a central role in God's providence. Not only as wives, mothers, sisters and daughters, but as leaders and equal participants in all fields of human endeavor. In 1992, we founded the Women's Federation for World Peace, to develop a global network of women dedicated to building God-centered families and a world of global peace. Shortly before my husband passed away, we launched the Global Women's Peace Network, building on the foundation of WFWP, as an "Abel Women's UN." WFWP has chapters around the world, with active volunteers engaged in developing schools, orphanages and a wide range of humanitarian initiatives.

Throughout much of human history, in virtually all societies, women have been subjected to discrimination and mistreatment. In recent decades, however, women and men throughout the world are committed to turning the page on this unfortunate history. Increasingly, all people realize that as women are given encouragement and equal access to better education, and as they take on positions of responsibility in all sectors, our world improves. Wherever women are excluded or suppressed, social, political, economic and even spiritual development is held back...

I pray that we can work together in this great mission to build a unified world of peace and prosperity, as one family under God. Please do everything you can to renew and transform your nations and build a world of lasting peace, as envisioned by God from the beginning of time. Such a world goes beyond the divisions of religion, race, ethnicity and nationality. God's ideal world is a borderless world of freedom, peace, unity and happiness...

I invite you all to take up this challenge of building a new world of universal peace. Let us all stand together as one and build "One Family Under God."
May God's blessings be with every one of you, your families and your nations.

