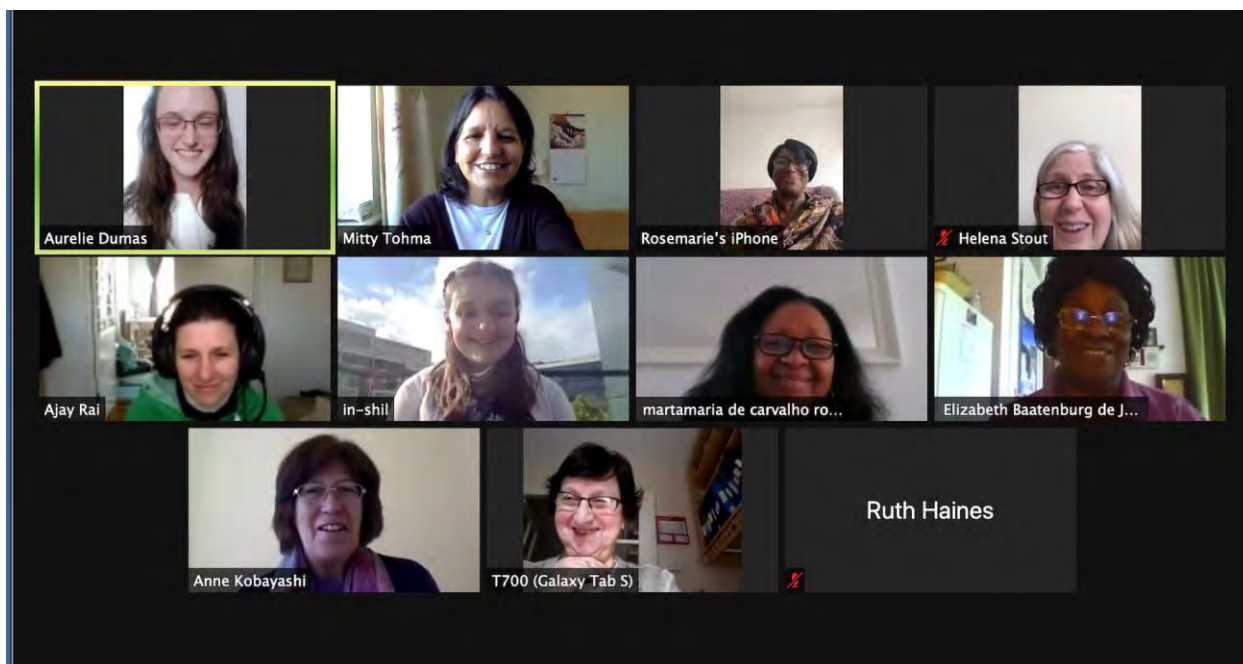


Women's Peace Academy UK: All of us need to feel grateful for being born

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On Friday 16th October, Women's Peace Academy held one of its regular bi-weekly Study Mornings, hosted by WFWP UK. There were 11 participants, including 2 young women of the younger generation, and Mrs. Mitty Tohma, President of WFWP UK and European Vice President. It was a very joyful and uplifting meeting.

After a short prayer by Mrs. Anne Kobayashi, the meeting was opened by Mrs. In-Shil Cotter, one of our younger members, who was the moderator for today. In-Shil gave a warm welcome to everyone and then we began by reading a passage from "Mother of Peace," the memoirs of WFWP's founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. It was a very deep and relevant passage, reflecting on Mother Moon's childhood experiences in war-torn Korea. It was a childhood full of hardships but Hak Ja Han felt God's presence and guidance always, like a father. She treasured it as a growing period designed by heaven to prepare her for her future as True Mother.

We then divided into two breakout rooms to have time for reflection and discussion about the reading. The participants in both rooms found some very meaningful points which made us think deeply. One point which struck many of us was "...Every one of us needs to feel grateful for being born. There is not one person whose life is meaningless. Moreover, no person's life is his or hers alone." We reflected that we all have so many things to be grateful for. We may feel limitations due to what we have been told while growing up but we must remember that our life is precious. Even to consider the total dedication of a mother during pregnancy and birth shows the value of each life. Also when we give birth we feel the absolute value of our child as a being in the image of God.

Everyone returned to the main Zoom room and shared briefly what each group had spoken about. Introductions were made as we had some newcomers to the group. The atmosphere was very joyful as we greeted each other.

A few other points were touched on such as the pitiful situation in Korea at the time of the Korean War, and its situation in this present day. Much enmity is felt at a time of war but we should realize that not everyone on the "opposite side" is bad, and often they are simply following orders.

We concluded by acknowledging that many grave mistakes have been made in the past between nations and peoples, but there is no winner in conflict and war. Now is the time to move forward and to forge deep bonds of friendship which can help to heal historical resentment.

The next WPA study morning will be held on Friday 30th October at 11AM. We hope that many more ladies will join us for this great experience.

Reported by Anne Kobayashi
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