

## WFWP South and Central London's Young Women's Speech Contest for 2022

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On Saturday 20th August Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP), South and Central London chapters, hosted the branch level Young Women's Speech Contest for 2022.

Despite fewer attendees than expected (around 20 people) due to train strikes, it was still a very bright and uplifting event, and was enjoyed by all.

Our very capable MC for the afternoon, Mrs. Tina Bakalov, welcomed everyone warmly and provided a brief summary of the aims and values of WFWP, and the speech contest. She continued by introducing the 2 judges, Mrs. Vanya Almeida, who has an MA in English Literature, and Mrs. Miho Fortune a skilled nurse specialising in women's health. Also the 2 contestants.

The first speaker was Nadia Azizuddin, 19 years old and a student of Classics at UCL. Nadia, who is British-Indian, is a gifted musician. She plays guitar and bass, and also is passionate about environmental issues and human / animal rights.

Nadia's speech highlighted the plight of animals which are used for scientific testing in laboratories. They experience fear and physical pain, almost amounting to torture. We should know about this and try to raise awareness via social media, petitioning the government, and contacting animal welfare groups. Isn't it preferable to live in a world without needless suffering?



Next was Beatrice Gaina. 21 years old, she is Portuguese-Romanian, and is studying Social Work at university, whilst working as a support worker. Social issues are her main interests and she hopes to contribute in solving some of them. Her hobby is volleyball.

Beatrice's presentation focused on the suffering of humanity, which causes anguish to our Mother Earth. Beatrice claimed that she herself is not so sensitive, yet she can hear and feel the suffering from all corners of the globe. What can we do? Daily life still continues and not everyone can take steps to change the world, but we can take actions to bring change to and help those around us.

YOLO = We have one chance to help.

The judges then took time to assess the presentations, whilst a coffee break was enjoyed by all. After much deliberation it was decided that both were of equally high standard and the young ladies were declared Joint First Place Award Winners of the Speech Contest.

They were awarded their prizes in front of the very appreciative audience, who had very much enjoyed listening to them. There were closing remarks from the MC and from Mrs. Dolores Read, Chairperson of South London WFWP.

Report by Anne Kobayashi.

