OCEANIA / S.E. ASIA WFWP NEWSLETTER

Issue 3 | 2021

The Hope for Humanity Comes from Mothers



"History is calling for reconciliation, compassion, love, service and sacrifice. Today's problems cannot be solved by the logic of power. ... Our present problems can only be solved by the logic of love."

> Dr. Hak Jan Han Moon Founder, WFWP International

Inside This Issue

Page

- 2 Feature Column: Women Entrepreneurs'
- 5 Australia
- 12 New Zealand
- 15 Solomon Islands
- 16 Philippines
- 21 Malaysia
- 24 Contact Us and Get Involved

WFWP is committed to:

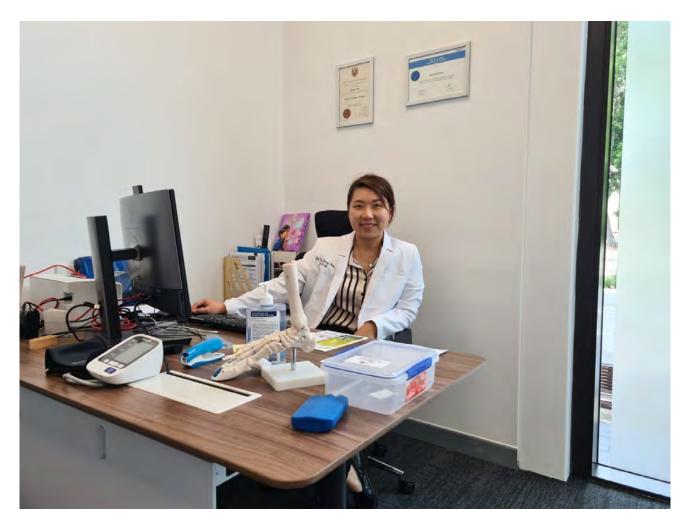
- Serving communities Service projects within Australia & the Pacific Islands.
- Strengthening the family Workshops, forums, seminars, and conferences.
- Bridge of Peace Reconciling differences and healing wounds of the past.
- Global Women's Peace Network (GWPN) – A network of women leaders and organisations dedicated to solving pressing social issues and securing an environment for human development.

Feature Column: Women Entrepreneur's

Foot and Ankle Experts Health Clinic. August 2021 | Australia

Overview

• Dr YeJeong DeGeer is a female entrepreneur who has opened her own podiatry clinic while also being a member of WFWP Queensland.



After gaining her qualification as a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine, YeJeong begun working in multiple clinics as a sole trader in the profession of general foot and ankle clinician. Four years later she opened her own clinic in January 2021. With her husband Chis, they employed four female practitioners and four full time employees to serve the wellbeing of 5,000 local patients in Hamilton, Queensland. Her patients often say that the clinic is full of women's power and warm kindness. Her

clinic, 'Foot and Ankle Experts Health Clinic' has an excellent reputation throughout the community as a holistic health centre that uses a tailored approach to care for those in need.



Dr DeGeer jumped into the allied health industry with her husband's support while they were raising a young family and YeJeong was Vice-President of WFWP Queensland. "It was a fun but tiring journey as we built up the health clinic."

After YeJeong's father became President of the HJ Magnolia Medical Foundation in South Korea in 2019, she felt the push to create a clinic in Australia that served the values of the Founders of WFWP, and to become a haven for aspiring clinicians. Her mother-in-law (retired President of WFWP Australia, who also ran her own clinic) shared with her, "If you make a place where healing starts after walking through the clinic door, that means success".



The clinic stands for hope and spontaneous healing through demonstrating the core values of 'living for the sake of others'. Holding that value as a cornerstone of her clinic, YeJeong believes that mental and physical wellbeing can be achieved by investing with love and care for each patient, and the team unconditionally. YeJeong believes there will be more challenges and hardships as they expand, because success comes hand in hand with challenges. However, if her business maintains its core values and she has a great team who have caring hearts, YeJeong believes that the business's struggles will reap great rewards. Through her membership and volunteer work with WFWP, YeJeong has learnt that the philosophy of 'living for the sake of others' guides her through hardships and continues to shine even during the darkest of times. YeJeong believes that her clinic is an example of that principle.



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Hosted by Women's Federation for World Peace Australia

This Feature Column aims to promote and support Women Entrepreneur's within the region of Oceania and S.E. Asia.

Supporting women entrepreneurs is one of the most effective tools to revive a nation's economic growth and create jobs, especially during challenging economic times. Entrepreneurship has been the backbone of every economic recovery. <u>https://impakter.com/supporting-women-entrepreneurs-key-for-global-economic-recovery/</u>

Australia

UN International Day of Peace conference Peace Building and our Environment Saturday September 21st | Victoria, Australia

Overview

- Seventy-five prominent peace activists and Ambassadors for Peace met online for two hours to discuss this year's UN theme "Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world".
- The overall sentiment of the conference was there can be no peace without justice and that peace builds prosperity.



• The moderators were Daniel Meadows, Chair of Youth and Students for Peace Oceania, and Will Abdo who is Assistant Vice President of UPF Victoria and CEO of Webtrade Marketing.

Keynote Speakers

Professor N. Radhakrishnan



The first keynote was given by Prof. N. Radhakrishnan, Chairman of the Indian Council of Gandhian Studies (New Delhi), Founder of the Gandhi Media Foundation, and General Convener for the Gandhi Peace Mission 2015.

Professor Radhakrishnan argued that the United Nations has played a significant role in fostering peace, but needs to become a more democratic institution empowering all its member states to ask the question – "How much is the United Nations a

representative of the humanity?" He said, "There is a general feeling that the fifteen-member Security Council should be enlarged ... The UN must become a Parliament of Humanity, because veto power needs rethinking."

Molly Harriss Olson

The second keynote was given by Molly Harriss Olson – CEO Fairtrade Australia and New Zealand.

Molly was recognised by the YALE Alumni of Distinction Award in 2020 for "exceptional contributions to global environmental and economic sustainability and the development of ethical supply chains". She served as the Executive Director on President Clinton's Council on Sustainable Development at the White House from 1992 to 1996.



Molly spoke about, 'Peace – the essential ingredient for sustainability and prosperity'. She argued that there can be no peace without justice. Molly shared that 'Fair trade' on a global level builds trust, trust builds peace, and peace builds prosperity. She argued that for the first time a world in which small producers and workers can enjoy secure and sustainability livelihoods is within our grasp. Fairtrade as a global organisation plays a significant role in changing the way trade works. It provides better prices, decent working conditions and a fairer deal for farmers and workers in developing countries.

Presenters

Linda Young



Linda Young has a Bachelor of Teaching, Bachelor of Education, and a Bachelor of Theology. She has served as a minister for the past 18 years and is currently undertaking a doctorate in exploring the use of art and creativity to help people find peace and meaning.

The theme of her talk was, 'Centring' Journey to Inner Peace- An Unprecedented Opportunity'. Linda argued the need for inner peace and outlined the practices underpinning 'Spiritual Direction', an ancient practice used by Christian spiritual mystics. Its main pillars consist of contemplative listening, the practice of silence,

discernment, and prayer. Linda said, "The longest I have ever spent in silence is seven days. It takes a day or two for the mind to slow down and empty, but when it does, the peace that rises is extraordinary. It helps to bring perspective back to the moment, and to the essence of what it means to be alive."

Dr Shahid Yamin

Dr Shahid Yamin, Executive Chairman and co-founder of Global Opportunities Commercialisation (GOC) has developed the concept of "Smart Institute" to develop appropriate technology-based entrepreneurs in poorer regions of the world.

The GOC executive team strongly believe that social and economic empowerment are the drivers of peace in the world community. Shahid spoke about, 'The Role of Multifaceted Variables in Universal Peace'. He argued that peace is part of a bigger equation of multifaceted variables, each of which interact in different ways.



Peace is a mindset which needs to be consciously promoted, and social change can only occur when concurrent action is undertaken at all levels. Poverty, the arms race, global politics of war, and climate change are the variables that have a close relationship with peace.

Shahid shared, "Peace is not absence of war, peace is justice, equity, and harmony. For the past 100 years, billions of dollars have been invested on various actions related to poverty with limited results. A focus on generational poverty will provide far better results. Each child inherits and perpetuates a poverty mindset, or on the other hand a growth mindset. Additionally, he argued that we cannot have a peaceful world when we blatantly sanction the arms race in the name of peace – "We are the victims of the politics of war in the name of peace!"

Dr John Bellavance



Concluding remarks were given by Dr John Bellavance, Oceania Coordinator of the International Association of Academicians for Peace, and National Vice-President of UPF Australia.

Dr John spoke about 'Peace Building Leadership Skills in the Global Village'. He argued that lasting peace is secured not merely through government backed laws, but by a raising awareness of our universal solidarity as one human family. The loss of values in our world is causing materialism. Using other human beings for one's own sake ultimately destroys relationships.

John argued for a holistic approach to peace. Reason, theism, humanism, and materialism must not be separated. Secular humanism must not ignore spiritual values. Self-centred materialism must be controlled – guided by higher ideals. Spiritual values must be guided by reason. Additionally, we need a 'Head Wing' approach as the political left and right both are needed to solve national and global problems. He said, "neither the right, nor the left will save us".

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one another across traditional lines of race, culture, and religion to create healthy families can resolve the complex problems of our societies and world.



Universal Peace Federation Australia is an NGO in General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. We support and promote the work of the United Nations and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals - www.upf.org

With Support from:

Family Federation for World Peace and Unification Australia, The Center for Global Nonkilling, The Australia Arab Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Fair Trade Australia and New Zealand, The Global Opportunities Commercialisation, The Global Somali Diaspora, and Nelson Mandela International Day.

Volunteering with WFWP Australia: Testimonials Peace Building and our Environment August 2021 | Australia

Volunteers

Elgy



Elgy is part of the WFWP Australia social enterprise committee led by Dr. Jennifer Huang to support the development of a social enterprise aiming to empower and aid women working in Island nations of the Pacific. Elgy is also a mentee in the 'Leading into the Future' mentor program through the Global Women's Peace Network project of WFWP Australia.

The main reason she volunteered with WFWP is because its goals and mission statement resonate with her. Elgy believes that we need more strong female leaders/role models who are intelligent yet compassionate to help build and better shape our society, be it in business, government, and other social aspects.

Suzanna



Suzanna is a passionate educator and humanitarian. She joined WFWP Victoria to contribute her skills. knowledge, and services to humanity. What drew her to the foundation as a volunteer was that WFWP is an international peacekeeping organisation and an international network recognised the United Nations. To by create cultural change today, we need to work together globally to create a shared understanding of values, knowledge, and equality to bring about harmony and world peace.

Evident from her teaching background, Suzanna believes that it is in our school system that women and families play a critical role in a child's development, particularly instilling family values. When children are born into respectful loving families, students are more likely to succeed in all areas of life. We now know that children from broken families bring with them many traumas, which ultimately affects their learning and development.

Working with the WFWP Australia has provided Suzanna with many exciting and empowering opportunities to develop her own personal skills. These include leadership, working with people, event planning and fundraising, upskilling in business, marketing, and finance. Suzanna shared that these skills assist her in many ways within and outside of her personal career.

Katherine



Katherine joined WFWP Victoria this year to help as a bookkeeper. Ever since, she has had the opportunity to meet inspiring women who demonstrate leadership, which Katherine believes is as a much-needed skill today. Katherine greatly enjoys being part of the WFWP organisation because she gets to liaise with different people and participate in events that foster her knowledge about leadership and its impact in communities. As an economist, she is an advocate for education, and WFWP's values align really well with her beliefs.

Katherine believes that to see change in society, people should start by being a better version of themselves. The programs run by WFWP focus to foster personal and professional development for women, which in a big scale contributes to the general well-being of the community.

In the last months, Katherine has volunteered to participate in the *Leading into the Future Mentor Program* where she has been given the chance to be a mentee matched with a woman leader. Katherine is very much looking forward to all the learning this program will bring and is committed to supporting her mentor in any way she possibly can.

Saranya



Being part of WFWP has been a great experience. I recently migrated from India, and like everyone I had the fear of new places, new people, and new environments. WFWP helped me overcome my fear and build my confidence. I got to meet sweet people who were very welcoming and encouraging. I enjoy contributing my time and efforts for a cause. I have always been a person who looks for opportunities to give something society.

back

I discovered my creative and marketing skills by working on brochures and flyers for WFWP events. I had something to work on, rather than being idle and staying at home. WFWP enabled me to come out and explore. I used my experience with WFWP as a stepping stone for building my career here in Melbourne. Anne Bellavance, our WFWP Australia President makes me feel I'm part of her family. She corrects me, encourages me, and empathizes along with me.

to



New Zealand

Interfaith Peace Symposium Women as Nation Builders 19th June 2021 | New Zealand

Overview

- The symposium highlighted the unique gifts that woman have to create, nurture, respect, and comfort others in the family and in the community.
- Women are integral for building a peaceful nation.



After a recitation of the Holy Quran, a panel of four women shared their experiences and life journeys with an interfaith audience of close to 100 women. The symposium highlighted the unique gifts of a woman to create, nurture, respect, and comfort others in the family and in the community, as integral partners for building a peaceful nation.

This event addressed current family problems and highlighted that family breakdown results in a broken nation.

Presenters

Ruth Cleaver



Ruth is President of the Auckland Interfaith Council, and a member of Women's Federation for World Peace. She took the opportunity to advertise an event on the 12th of November 2022 with the theme "Family Building is Nation Building".

Ruth shared that a good nation requires good citizens. The family is the school of love where we practise relationship building, respect, understanding and sharing as people. The family is where we learn to value diversity, develop compassion, and conflict resolution. However,

teaching these values has become harder with the current instruction of gender fluidity in schools and influences from the World Wide Web. We can help by keeping the communication with our children open. Men and women bring different skills to the family and together they nurture the family.

Fazilat Shah



Fazilat is a barrister who specialises in family law. She shared her experience about her mother, who as an inspirational role model worked tirelessly as a teacher and Principal in Fiji. We can encourage children who feel they "can't", by saying, "you can take steps and in time you will be able to do it". Let us smile to make the life of each another better and help each other.

Mehak Sharma



Mehak is an executive member of the Indian Association and a financial advisor with a degree in journalism and poetry. She said that when women are honoured, divinity is raised. The nation begins in the home with the love, care, sacrifice and fierceness of women who are resolute in fighting injustice. We are unique and good in our own way. Women are beyond any mould, 'She' is like water and like earth.

Zarina Ginai



Zarina is a member of the Ahmadiyya community and holds a master's in pharmacy and a Diploma of conscious parenting. She said we are human beings, not human doings. Women are nation builders in raising children and have an ability to unlock doors to a spiritual revolution. We need to keep balanced by understanding ourselves and leading a life congruent to our identity. Children are not mini-Me's, but a gift and trial at the same time. We need to tailor ourselves to meet their needs. Children are traumatised when they are

disconnected from parents, they are unable to process their hurt. When we are triggered, we may explode in anger, which shows a lack in our parenting skills. Therefore, we need to become aware of our triggers, disconnect from our conditioned response, and allow ourselves the opportunity to be transformed by them into a better person. If we parent badly we are nation breakers.

Reflection from Participants

"...Let's keep this conversation going and continue finding and creating platforms for women to network, support and empower one another." – Matapa

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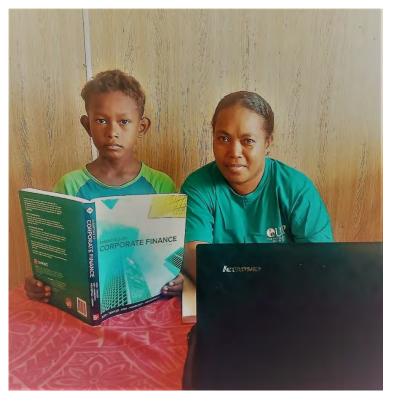
Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Association NZ

Solomon Islands

Monica Longanimala Ilala WFWP Australia Pasifika Scholarship Recipient August 2021 | Solomon Islands

My name is Monica Longanimala Ilana, and I am from the Solomon Islands. I am completing a Master of Business Administration (MBA) at the University of the South Pacific (USP). I have successfully completed 8 courses and must complete 4 more courses before I can achieve an MBA career. With my academic journey I have found the financial support difficult as tuition fees are very expensive.

I am blessed and humbled with having the privilege to receive the Pasifika Scholarship from WFWP Australia to support my education. Getting this scholarship is a great honour for me and my family. It tells me that I have the potential to create a future for our society. I am going to make sure of my responsibilities represent our to Solomon Island society and give back to the community. I am going to do the best I can to make my family and society happy - this is my aspiration. I will now be able to support my community with community business support through the knowledge and skills I have learnt.



With this scholarship, I would like to sincerely express my heartfelt thanks for choosing me as one of the Pasifika Scholarship recipients from the Solomon Islands. I wish to give my special thanks to the WFWP Australia Pasifika Scholarship team and for my sponsors. Your kind and generous donation allows my studies to keep moving smoothly. You have given me so much hope and support for my education that I cannot express my gratitude in any words. For without your generous giving, my academic journey would not have been made possible. Once again, thank you so much.

Monica is raising three young children. Sadly, her husband passed away in 2019.

Philippines

Youth's Power to Change a Nation Practicing Altruism and Conscience-centred Leadership 16-19th July 2021 | Philippines

Overview

- A project of the 10,000 Heroes League, a youth group established by WFWP Philippines.
- A partnership with: Sangguniang Kabataan of Barangay Tangnan, Youth and Students for Peace (YSP), World Collegiate Association for the Research of Principle (WCARP), and World Tong Il Moo Do Federation (WTIMDF).

The Leadership training seminar was held at Tangnan, Panglao, Bohol, Philippines. With a theme of: "Youth's Power to Change a Nation: Practicing Altruism and Conscience-centred Leadership in Young People", a total of 57 youth leaders and students became advocates of purity.



The main goal of the seminar was to promote Pure Love Education and to spread awareness about the increasing rate of teenage pregnancy and HIV-AIDS in the Philippines. The event emphasised True Love and Pure Love, and how they are different yet connected to each other.



The lecturer explained that true love is unconditional giving and then forgetting. This type of love creates a give-and-take action and grows bigger. True love is 'living for the sake of others', it is love for everyone, and the greatest love. Pure Love is the starting point of True Love. Pure love is love for only one, the most important love. Pure Love is the only kind of love that must not be shared. No husband wants his wife to share this love with another man and vice versa. We have no idea just how many families have gone into chaos because the love that is supposed to be for only one was shared with another party."



Participants were enlightened and inspired by the lectures. As part of the continuing quest to create a world of peace, participants pledged to keep their purity before marriage, and maintain fidelity within marriage.



Reflection from Participants

"We need to learn Pure Love because as of today there are lots of young people who don't value love. Teenagers nowadays define love as a joke. Why? Maybe because of the environment and norms in society. What they see are lots of problems affecting young people like me. So, they don't take problems seriously. As of today, I learned a lot. I would also share and teach this to everyone." - April

PARTNERS and SUPPORTERS

WFWP Philippines Sangguniang Kabataan of Barangay Tangnan Youth and Students for Peace (YSP) World Collegiate Association for the Research of Principle (WCARP) World Tong II Moo Do Federation (WTIMDF). Domestic Peace Education Program Guide for Mother's Orientation Day 10th July 2021 | Caloocan City, Philippines

Overview

• Improving parent's love relationships through the 'Gabay kay Nanay' (Guide for Mothers) module.

A total of 34 participants attended the program. Originally the number of participants was set for 50, but later reduced to 30 due to safety protocols. To support COVID restrictions, participants were divided into morning and afternoon sessions.



The Domestic Peace Education Orientation Program was conducted at the FFWPU Centre in Caloocan City. The program aims to improve love relationships between parents. To this end, WFWP Philippines officers prepared the module titled, "Gabay kay Nanay" (Guide for Mothers). The module has 12 subtopics that will be implemented over 12 weeks and specifically focuses on a wife's gestures of love toward her husband. Participants graduate after completing the 12-week course.

The initiative aims to improve relationships between couples and bring family peace, thus providing a solution to domestic violence. The program also encourages children to participate further in youth programs to support their development.



The Domestic Peace Education orientation day allowed participants to understand WFWP's worldwide activities and encouraged them to be part of the growing family of the Women's Federation. One of the speakers was Barangay Councillor, Gloria Arellano who congratulated and encouraged the participants to restart building good relationships with their husbands no matter how hard it is. Councillor Arellano shared her life experiences and family testimonies. According to her, through having good a relationship with her husband, she was able to raise her children to have a stable life and a good career.

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With support from:

FFWPU, Caloocan

Malaysia

Covid-19 Humanitarian Aid

28th- 29th August 2021 | Malaysia

Overview

- To provide food aid and groceries to needy families who are badly affected by the COVID pandemic.
- o To empower women leaders to take the lead in helping underserved communities.

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, WFWP Malaysia has actively teamed up with other NGOs and the local community groups by pooling resources to aid struggling families coping with the predicament caused by the pandemic.



Groceries were given away to 253 underprivileged families from the areas of Ipoh, Sungai Siput, and Bidor in Perak State, and Rawang in Selangor State. Food packages included rice, fruits, noodles, sugar, oil, canned foods, and other staples.



Food rations were donated by the Member of Parliament for Sungai Siput, Hon. Kesavan Subramaniam, as well as many other generous sponsors and donors from the local community. "These families are severely affected and some no longer have a reliable income source for food sustenance", said Ms Carol Cheng, Project Coordinator of the giveaway.



Due to worsening COVID outbreaks in Malaysia, we decided to deliver the food rations house to house, especially to people living in rural areas. "We really thank all the volunteers who went all out to distribute the rations", explained Mrs Kanakambal Letchumanan, distribution team lead in Perak. The distribution was completed with the tireless efforts of WFWP and UPF Malaysia volunteers, and Sri Saradha Devi Ashram volunteers.

In the state of Selangor, Mdm Shanta Venugopal gathered a group of friends and raised food packages for 40 needy families in Rawang. Madam Shanta shared, "The pandemic has left people suffering out there. Food is love! When we share food and groceries with them, we are also sharing love, hope and kindness".



Some of the recipients of the food packages were near to tears as they received the much-needed items.

WFWP Malaysia and its associates will continue to encourage the public to step up to help the less fortunate and reduce the burden on underprivileged families. We thank the women volunteers for taking the lead in initiating and

coordinating the humanitarian aid projects to support the needy.

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Feeling inspired?



Support our Pacific Islands Humanitarian Service Projects

<u>Volunteer</u>: Get involved with one of our Oceania Chapters. Contact us to find out how.

<u>Donate</u>: Make a financial contribution to our WFWP Island Projects, where 100% of your donation supports humanitarian projects. Within Oceania, WFWP is a fully volunteer based NFP charitable organisation.

<u>Used sewing machines</u>: Sent to our *Women's Sewing Centres* in Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, Fiji, PNG, and Samoa, where local women start cooperatives to support their families. Please ensure that your sewing machine is in good working conditions. The Women's Centres are also in need of fabric and tools.

Quality junior and secondary school

<u>books</u>: *Books for the Islands* donates to primary and secondary schools within the Pacific to either establish school libraries, or enrich them.

Contact us to organise a pick-up or drop off time.