

## WFWP Global Women's Peace Network - Annual Women's Leadership Conference

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### Pathways to Peace and Development through Women's Initiatives

The Global Women's Peace Network Wraps Up 22nd Annual Leadership Conference with a Message of Hope

Tirana, Albania - The Global Women's Peace Network WFWP EUME concluded its 22nd Annual Women's Leadership Conference this weekend, delivering a robust reaffirmation that peace and development spring from women's initiatives. With more than 125 participants from across the globe, the conference framed pathways to sustainable futures through leadership, interfaith dialogue, technology, and holistic well-being.

The event, held under the banner "Pathways to Peace and Development through Women's Initiatives," brought together government officials, academics, journalists, activists, and civil society leaders. Delegates gathered in Tirana for three days of conversations that emphasized reconciliation, ethical governance, and inclusive development. The opening banquet set the tone, featuring remarks from WFWP leadership including Albania's Katerina Minolari, along with regional and international figures who highlighted the central role of women in peacebuilding.

Key sessions delved into how values-based leadership can bridge divides and heal wounds within communities. Session I explored responsible leadership through education for a peaceful future, with scholars and practitioners underscoring character, compassion, and moral clarity as essential ingredients for sustainable governance. In parallel, a session on technology and women's empowerment showcased female innovators and leaders in the digital age, illustrating how digital literacy and inclusive innovation can accelerate development and close gender gaps.

Interfaith dialogue formed a cornerstone of the conference, with Session II addressing the roots of harmony through spiritual and religious collaboration. Moderated discussions and Q and A sessions highlighted shared values across faiths and the importance of mutual respect in preventing conflict and fostering reconciliation.

Another notable feature was Session III, which celebrated women supporting each other through inspiring

journeys and projects. From former heads of state to grassroots organizers, the narratives outlined the power of networks, mentorship, and solidarity in driving change. The Bridge of Peace ceremony, a signature initiative of WFWP, offered a symbolic act of healing - three couples participated in a formal ceremony designed to foster trust and understanding across divides.

The program also drew attention to climate action and health and well-being in its final substantive sessions. Climate discussions linked environmental stewardship with peace, stressing grassroots leadership and resilience in communities facing climate challenges. Health and well-being sessions provided practical insights into holistic self-care, reinforcing that personal vitality underpins sustained peace work.

A formal awards segment recognized the Global Women Peace Ambassadors for distinguished contributions to peace and development, followed by closing remarks from Mitty Tohma, WFWP Europe and Middle East President. The event concluded with an official group photo and a shared commitment to carry the momentum forward into regional and international collaborations.

Participants left Tirana with a renewed sense of hope and a determination to translate insights into action. Observers noted that the conference's strength lay in its inclusive approach, drawing diverse perspectives from Europe, the Middle East, Africa, the Americas, and Asia. The emphasis on pillars such as ethical leadership, interfaith cooperation, technology-enabled empowerment, and holistic well-being provided a comprehensive blueprint for turning peaceful intention into tangible progress.

Looking ahead, organizers plan to establish a cross-border collaboration platform to implement the conference's identified initiatives. Mentorship programs, regional pilot projects on climate resilience, digital inclusion, and interfaith reconciliation are already on the agenda, with follow-up webinars and regional summits slated to sustain momentum.

In a time when global peace often feels fragile, the Tirana conference offered a hopeful narrative: women's leadership, connected by shared purpose and practical action, can unlock pathways to peace and development that benefit societies around the world. For participants, the takeaway is clear hope, not a sentiment but a plan, and the plan is under way.

By Mitty Tohma

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