

## WFWP Finland - International Women's Day Event - Give to Gain

Päivi Yoshizumi  
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The event, initiated by AFAES in collaboration with five partner organizations, brought together round 100 women from diverse backgrounds to celebrate International Women's Day and strengthen community ties.



The program opened with a poetic improvisation by Fatima Usman, accompanied by Kora artist Yaya Sonko, highlighting women's resilience and their journey toward recognition and value in society. WFWP singers then performed Hand in Hand, inviting the audience to join and creating an uplifting atmosphere.

A panel discussion followed under the theme "The Unseen Woman: Moving from Shadow to the Table." Panelists included Johanna Poutanen from CMI, Sandra Tutah from Mirsal, and lawyer Georgiana Forsang, with Päivi Yoshizumi from WFWP moderating. They reflected on women's growing presence in

decision-making roles, the impact of mentoring, and personal stories of overcoming barriers - such as navigating foreign qualifications and building a meaningful career in Finland.



Participants continued the conversation in table groups, discussing immigrant women's integration challenges, including racism, loneliness, language barriers, and employment difficulties. The focus remained on empowerment and recognizing each woman's strengths. The evening concluded with a shared multicultural dinner and warm networking.



Reported by Päivi Yoshizumi

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