

WOMEN AS THE TURNING POINT FOR PEACE AND THE GWPN WFWP 20th ANNIVERSARY

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Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon's Address

Distinguished guests from around the world, peace leaders and woman representatives from all fifty states of America, dear members of the Women's Federation for World Peace, WFWP International! My husband—Rev. Sun Myung Moon, who is now in the spirit world—and I would like to extend our sincere welcome to every one of you for coming to Las Vegas to attend this historic United States Assembly for the Global Women's Peace Network (GWPN) at which we commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the Women's Federation for World Peace in the United States.

Firstly, I want to express my sincere gratitude to the 7 million leaders from 194 nations who sent me their great love and respect upon Rev. Moon's passing, and who visited altars around the world to offer condolences. Rev. Moon proclaimed throughout the globe the vision of an ideal world, which was God's purpose at the Creation. He devoted his effort, without regard for his own life, to creating a peaceful world where conflict and war are no more.

Last July 16, after completing a busy schedule in America, we came to Korea. Immediately upon our arrival, we held the inaugural rally for the GWPN which will play an active role in building a peaceful world

in a new era. The event, which was held at the Peace World Centre, was attended by 25,000, among whom were woman leaders representing 194 nations. That was the last event Rev. Moon hosted on earth. About fifty days later, he prayed the words, “I have completed everything.” Soon afterwards, he passed into the heavenly realm, a transition that in Korean we call seonghwa.

CREATION OF THE GWPN

Beloved woman leaders from around the world, please remember that we carry the weighty responsibility to complete the providential mission of the GWPN, the final organization that Rev. Moon and I created together.

As you are well aware, representatives of all the world’s peoples, who had endured unbearable suffering in the aftermath of the catastrophic Second World War, founded the United Nations with a deep yearning for peace based on the viewpoint that war must never be waged again. This was in accordance with God’s will.

However, what is the reality today? In the sixty years of the United Nations’ existence, it has been unable to prevent wars breaking out, including the Korean War. Even though the cold war has ended, the world is not free from outbreaks of war, whether big or small, that stem from conflicts between rich and poor, between races, and between people of different faiths. Hasn’t the UN seen repeated breakdown of its work to fulfil its original mission to maintain global peace, according to the purpose of its founding?

At the time of its inauguration, the UN was the result of a compromise effected between the U. S. and the then Soviet Union under the confrontational structure of the cold war. From the outset,

therefore, it was limited in its ability to bring about lasting world peace transcending the interests of individual nations. Therefore, we emphasize that the renewal of the UN is absolutely critical to building a world of lasting peace as originally envisioned at the time of the Creation.

Respected peace leaders!

The United Nations has struck a brick wall, being unable to move beyond the level of balancing the various interests of individual nations. In history up to now, we have depended on government organizations centred on men to bring about global peace. Now, however, to surmount the limitations they have demonstrated, I believe that a women's peace movement centred on a nongovernmental organizations (NGO) should take root as the new system resolving problems that arise in the field. Since such a women's peace movement can only be realized through global cooperation that goes beyond the NGO level, we hope that the launch of the GWPN will be the starting point from which the women's peace movement can establish itself in society with a new leadership paradigm.

A NEW WOMEN'S PEACE MOVEMENT

Looking back, today's historic GWPN assembly began with establishment of the Women's Federation for World Peace, which the Reverend Sun Myung Moon and I jointly founded as a central organization for the women's peace movement. With the declaration of "the advent of the global era of women," WFWP was established, in accordance with the will of Heaven, on April 10, 1992, at Olympic Stadium in Seoul. That inaugural event was attended by woman

representatives from some 70 nations plus 150,000 Korean woman leaders.

Furthermore, the goal of the Women's Federation was not to be another ordinary women's organization. It does not aim to be an external, political, and combative women's rights movement mainly targeting men, which advocates expansion of women's rights, gender equality and the women's labour movement. Rather, it is a global peace movement on an entirely new level with the providential significance of realizing the ideal world as God envisaged it at the Creation.

Inaugurated against a background of such providential significance, WFWP has engaged in diverse activities over the past twenty years, geared to realizing the vision and ideals of pure love, happy families, and a peaceful world, transcending the barriers of race, religion, language, and national boundaries. This has been carried out in the spirit of Rev. Moon's founding message, in which he urged us to expand a model movement of true love to the whole world based on living for the sake of others. Based on motherly love, WFWP has achieved remarkable growth and development through a campaign to promote the establishment of families centred on true love through various educational programs and through volunteer activities aimed at elevating the status of women. These activities have alleviated international conflicts and promoted reconciliation.

In addition, after the special address I was invited to give at the UN headquarters in New York, in September 1993, and based on three years of hard work, the Women's Federation for World Peace was

approved by the United Nations Economic and Social Council as an NGO in general consultative status, which is the highest status given to an NGO. Since then, our status has been reapproved continuously at the revaluations held every four years. These entail strict assessment of activities and achievements. I believe it is safe to say that they recognize our true value, because among the more than 3,500 NGOs affiliated with the UN, only 140 have received this highest status.

SUBSTANTIAL EFFORTS TO BUILD PEACE

Our WFPW Women's Conference for Peace in the Middle East, which has been held every year from 1997, has attracted much interest and participation from woman leaders of the twenty-some nations in the Middle East. Now it has expanded and given birth to more concrete activities in the field, which I am glad to be able to report. At the end of June this year, WFPW sponsored the sixteenth annual Middle East conference, which was held as a session of the Human Rights Council at the United Nations Office at Geneva, about Children Affected by Conflict and Disaster: Prevention, Protection, Healing and Empowerment. It was attended by woman leaders from eighteen nations in the Middle East, diplomatic officials including ambassadors to the UN in Geneva from nations around the world, and representatives from UN agencies and global NGOs. These 180 or so participants came together to seriously discuss current problems. I am informed that they resolved to apply the results of their discussions in the field.

Furthermore, each WFPW chapter is also actively conducting relief aid work to address problems caused by natural calamities and poverty in various parts of the global village. Under the slogan, "Let us share a

little of what we have,” they are carrying out the 1% Love Share Project to help children and women in North Korea, and I am very happy to tell you that they have achieved wonderful results.

As can be seen, from the founding of WFWP to reaching the highest status as an NGO in consultative status under the UN, our members have never lost their founding spirit and have quietly pioneered the path of a woman’s peace movement with an unwavering heart. Therefore, I would like to offer a big round of applause to express my infinite gratitude to them, and to the woman leaders who have never held back in their encouragement or in their participation.

WFWP stands at the centre of the movement for world peace it has developed. This, however, should not remain at its current level. WFWP should develop it to the next stage, so that it can work together in solidarity and cooperation with woman leaders and NGOs from all parts of the world and push onward along the path toward realizing a world of lasting peace.

To do so, WFWP should go beyond the level of a women’s NGO, bring together governments, organizations and individuals across the world and move forward. A unified international effort under the ideal of the ‘Abel Women UN’ (Global Women’s Peace Network) is absolutely necessary to bring this about. It is, in fact, God’s absolute decree.

Today, as we usher in an age of universal and historic revolutionary change, I would like to give my sincere congratulations and encouragement to you on this, the opening of the United States Assembly for the ‘Abel Women UN,’ which is being held in order that women, who make up half the world’s population, can be aware of

their historic mission, and that we can expand the scope of our activities to all regions of the world.

Beloved woman leaders who seek peace! What is the path that humankind should take today? In the end, the problems afflicting humanity can only be resolved through the ideology of one family under God. This is the teaching of true love with God at the centre that my husband and I, the True Parents, received from Heaven and have championed and taught throughout our lives. These ideals alone represent the path that will lead humanity to a world of everlasting peace and happiness.

This is a historic time of a great cosmic revolution in which we must change history, unite the spiritual and physical worlds, and create the ideal kingdom of heaven that God has longed for since the beginning of time. We can no longer postpone or delay it. Heaven has already proclaimed that the thirteenth day of the first lunar-calendar month in 2013 will be Foundation Day.

Therefore, it is time for all people to be humbly obedient to Heaven's decree. Beloved woman leaders! The course for humanity is set. Heaven will bless your endeavours to establish a world of peace based on the GWPN. However, I would like to reemphasise that the priority of the GWPN should be creating a true family movement that emphasizes living for the sake of others based on true love and carried out in conjunction with education in proper values. War and conflict arise from selfish motives—desiring to take others' land, others' possessions, or the like, by force. On the other hand, peace arises from investing oneself for the sake of others—that is, giving based on true love.

Those leaders who turn their faces away from the new realities of the world, or who fail to see them, will be pushed aside by the changes coming upon us like a tsunami. I believe the time has now come for us to step forward boldly and receive new opportunities and values.

WOMEN AS A TURNING POINT

Beloved woman leaders!

Women are not here merely to help or to be protected by men; rather, they are independent individuals who as representatives of the feminine aspect of God's nature are meant to make men more complete and manly. Centring on true love, women are men's precious partners in love. Men and women are absolutely equal in terms of value.

Men and women who unite through the true love that is inherent in the original ideal share the same position. Also, they attain the right to be with each other wherever they may be. Furthermore, they attain the ideal right of inheritance, where all their property belongs to each equally. Thus, a man and woman, who are brought into oneness through the original love in God's ideal of true love, have been created to become equal beings, centred on true love, by sharing not only the same rank and the right of participation but also their possessions with each other.

Therefore, men and women do not need to confront or contend with each other, because they do not need to imitate the characteristics, dispositions, or roles of the other or to covet those things and take them by force. Instead, by giving what they have to the other with

true love and completing the other, they can become united as a greater whole and share in a relationship of joint ownership.

In the twenty-first century, women should play a major role in world history by serving, together with men, as one of the wheels of the engine pulling the construction of a peaceful world forward. Going beyond a century of power and technology, women will be the central axis in building a new century characterized by its loving, peaceful culture, and their role will be more important than ever before.

I sincerely ask you to follow the path of true mothers, the path of true wives, the path of true daughters, and the path of true woman leaders who will build a unified world where true freedom, peace, and happiness overflow. Rev. Moon always urged us to live without casting any shadow, which he called a life set at high noon. If every one of us lives like brightly shining lamps, no shadows will be cast. When we receive things, they become our debts. Please repay your debts by living a life of true love while spreading light throughout the world and wiping away the tears of those less fortunate.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am grateful to you for listening closely right to the end of my speech. I pray that God's blessing will be with you, with your families and with your work. Thank you.