

Women's Federation for World Peace International

United Nations Office Newsletter

July 2000

June 3rd Workshop Reviewed Key Elements of the Beijing + 5 Special Assembly.



June 3rd, 2000, WFWP International organized a workshop at UN HQ entitled "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace in the 21st Century." This was an ancillary meeting that served both an orientation for the Special Session of the General Assembly that began the following Monday as well as a contribution to the overall discussion for some participants.

Ms. Angela King, the Special Assistant to the Secretary General on Women's Issues, brought the Secretary-General's message to this "special workshop" despite her desperately busy schedule at this time. (The Secretary-General's remarks can be found at our website <http://wfw.org>.)

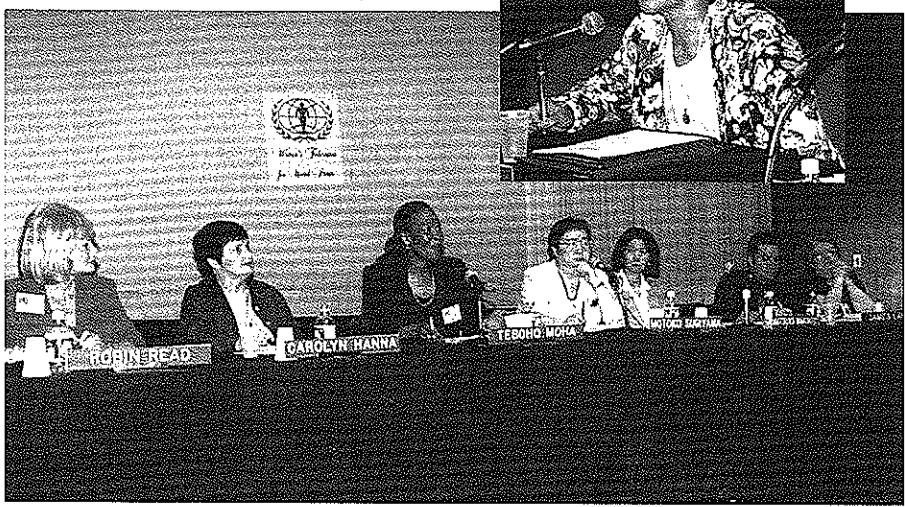
The efforts of the Secretary-General evidence his consistent efforts to involve civil society as an essential partner with the United Nations in the solving of the world's most difficult problems--poverty, gender inequality, sustainable development and the resolution of conflict.

With the gender issue as a major crosscutting theme in all the major areas of global concern, the work of women continues to be essential. The way we go about this work defines who we really are and what we are creating.

Ms. Carolyn Hannan of the United Nations' Division for the Advancement of Women, gave an information packed review of the developments of women's issues through the UN's international women's conferences that started in Mexico City in 1975 through to the Beijing + 5 Special Session of the General Assembly that

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Ms. Angela King, Special Assistant to the Secretary General on Women's Issues, reads the Secretary General's message to Workshop Participants.



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Statement of Purpose

The Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI) supports a network of National WFWP Chapters worldwide. WFWP Chapters adhere to the principle that women, working together, taking initiative and empowering one another across traditional lines of race, culture and religion to create healthy families, are resolving the complex problems of our societies and world.

Ultimately "solutions" come as *true* partnerships between men and women are established in all levels of society. The beginning point is within society's most elemental level—the family. Peace then expands into our communities, nation and world.

Therefore, WFWP works to provide women worldwide with: **the knowledge, tools and support needed to create peace at home, peace in our communities, our nations and our world.**

Ms. Motoko Sugiyama
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Fourth Women's Conference for Peace in the Middle East

Athens, Greece

May 17-20, 2000.

History

Since its founding in 1992, the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) has invested its human and material resources in the fields of family, youth, cultural exchange and peacemaking. Originally based in Asia, it expanded its activities to every corner of the world, with chapters or representatives in over 100 countries.

In the Middle East, the WFWP Japan has cosponsored with WFWP Middle Eastern chapters, three regional women's conferences in 1997, 1998 and 1999 to examine the role of women in the Middle East in peacemaking. The first and the second conferences were held in Istanbul, Turkey, and the third (last year) was held in Nicosia, Cyprus.

The Fourth conference was held in Athens, Greece with the theme "Women and a Culture of Peace," and held at the Astir Palace Hotels May 17th-20th, 2000

This year's conference saw the participation of over 40 people from 17 Middle Eastern countries plus a group from the sponsoring nation of Japan, and observers from Korea and USA.

Executive Summary

As presented by Madame Al Mufti, Conference Co-Chair

"Today we concluded a very intense, interesting and informative conference. With the year 2000 being designated by the UN as the *International Year for the*

Culture of Peace, it was entirely appropriate that we hold a conference under the theme *Women and the Culture of Peace*.

"The conference began with a message of greeting from the founder of WFWP read by Prof. Lan Young Moon Park, Vice President of WFWP International. Welcoming remarks were then given by the two co-chairs, Motoko Sugiyama and myself.

"Session one was moderated by Dr. Salwa Nasser, Jordan who proposed that the participants divide into smaller groups

and hold discussions under the session theme "Private Peace becoming Public Peace." Each group discussed each of two topics "Parents as Models for Family and Community Level Peace and Non-Violence" and "The Role of the Marriage Partners in Establishing Gender Equity." The importance of learning restorative and conflict resolution skills was raised.

"Those discussing the role of parents stressed and observed the following:

- There is a need for education of both husband and wife to communi-

cate and better express themselves;

- There is a need for more education about human rights and civil law;
- Mothers, as the source of life, naturally avoid war and violence.
- The teaching of conflict resolution skills at an early age is important to avoid conflict later.
- Parents are role models for all aspects of life, even as we deal with the changing circumstances of our lives including the shift in roles between men and women in the labor force in modern society.



Madame Al-Mufti giving the Executive Summary



Prof. Lan Young Moon brings the Founder's Remarks to the Opening of the 4th Conference.



- Equity may entail compromises, but not of dignity.
- To draw on our religious traditions, for example Islamic law in the areas of inheritance, property ownership, marriage and divorce rights.
- Transforming the concept of equity into the concept of equality in our society.
- The marriage partnership should be exclusive as is corporate law.

The afternoon presentations, moderated by Mdm. Ana Constantinides, were given by Mr. Jack Corley, Vice President of the International Educational Foundation who stressed the need for character education as the foundation for knowledge education and its importance for social well being and world peace.

In his second presentation he reminded us of the breakdown of family values and virtue through the sexual revolution and therefore the pressing need for a new concept of family ethics.

During the Friday morning session moderated by Dr. Ayse Nilufer Narli, two papers were presented by Ms. Shelly El-Kayam, Israel and Dr. Ruveyde Bayraktar, Turkey. In her presentation, Ms. El-Kayam used statistics to point out that many young people in Israel become sexually involved even as young as fifteen

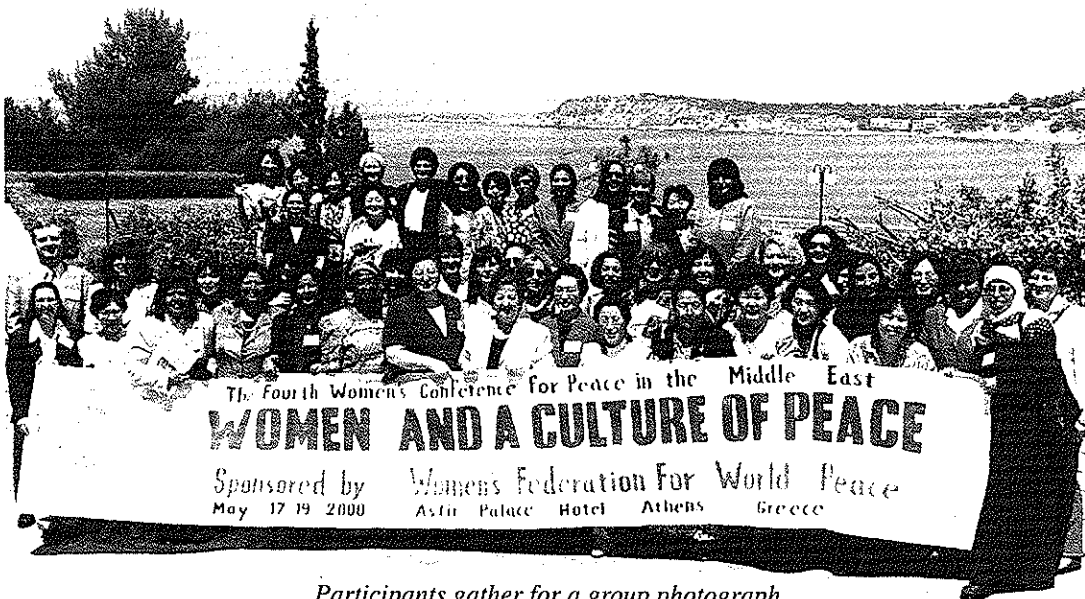


with many negative consequences and most notably, depression.

Dr. Bayraktar emphasized the important role of education in dealing with the aging process as it relates to the symptoms of menopause in particular, and the overall desired result of happier women, families and so more peaceful communities.

Dr. Asya Mohamed Al-Lamky moderated the final two sessions on "Women as Leaders." The papers presented included:

- Mdm. Hedayat Kamal, Egypt: "Women and the Culture of Peace."
- Ms. Arbia Ben Ammar, Tunisia: "Developing Women's Political Awareness."
- Dr. Ayse Nilufer Narli, Turkey: "The Situation of Women in Turkey and Women's Political Consciousness and Participation."
- Ms. Mirjana Abourahal & Claudia Elias Chamoun, Lebanon presented a joint paper "Women as Leaders."
 - Mdm. Emna Attallah Soula, Tunisia: "Women and Peace"
 - Dr. Salwa Nasser, Jordan: "Women in Power and Decision Making."
 - Mdm. Alice Hecht, UNSCOM gave her humorous and insightful recounting of her discovery that ultimately our personal power resides where we place it.
 - Dr. Nadina Theodorou, Cyprus: "Women as Parents and Models for Family and Community Level Peace and Non-Violence: The Cyprus Experience."
 - Mdm. Marlin Yousef El-Mahalli, Libya: Women and Political Life.



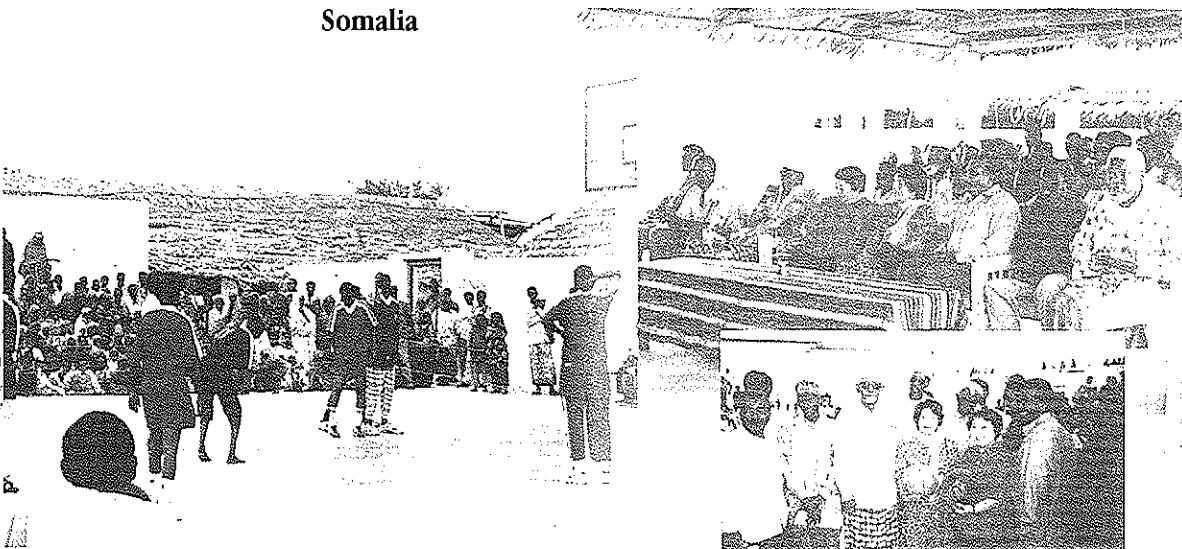
Participants gather for a group photograph.

Participants Adopt Forward Looking Conclusions,

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Activities In A

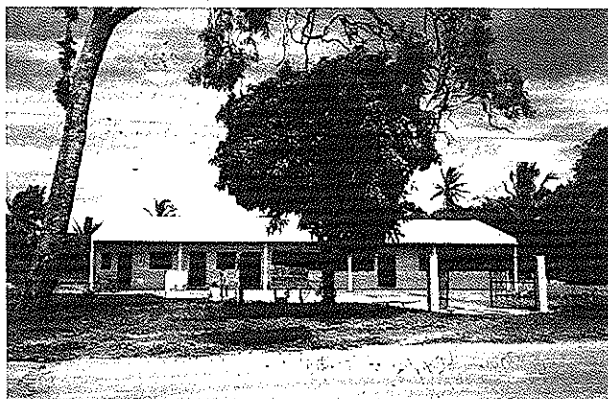
Somalia



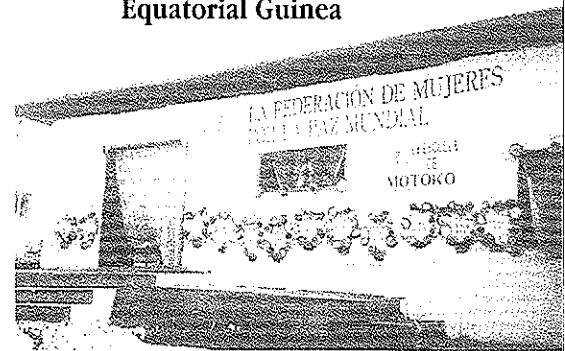
WFP Chapters in Japan raised funds to support WFP Somalia's work to rehabilitate a Community Center that also has a meeting hall and athletic field.

Mozambique

Right & Below: The Junior High School "Sun of Mozambique." Opened by the Minister of Education in 1998 now has 400 students in 5 classes. Funds come from WFP Japan



Equatorial Guinea

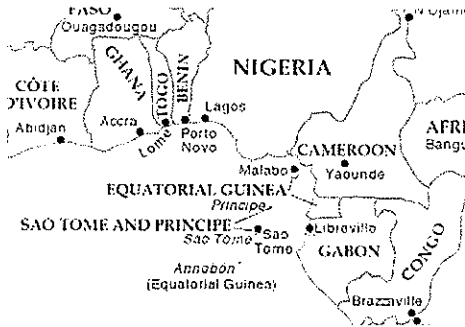
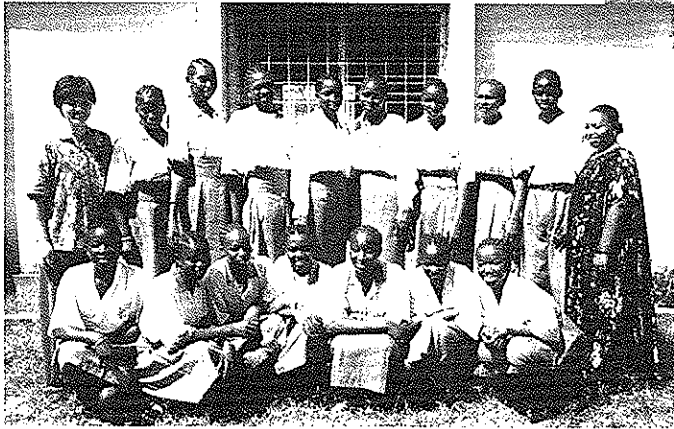


Africa—1999

Gambia

Right: Students in Kanuma with new school equipment. The school was provided with black boards, desks and benches.

Below: Some of the scholarship students from St. Peter's Senior Secondary School. WFP-Gambia also provides vocational training, AIDS education and clothing donations.

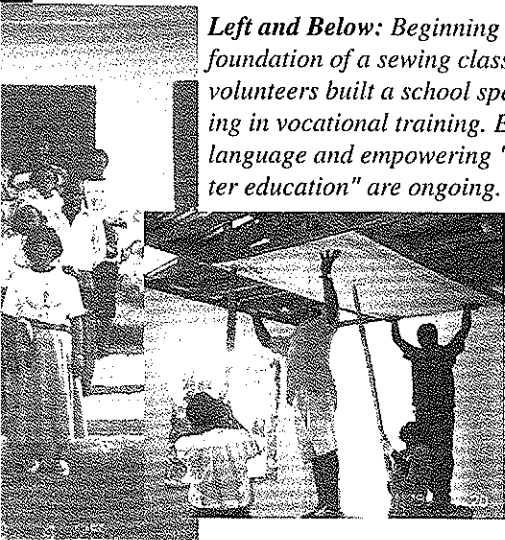


Sao Tome & Principe

Right & Below: WFP of Sao Tome & Principe has worked consistently to instruct families in health and hygiene, to provide them with basic food and clothing, children's school supplies (exercise books, pencils and erases,) and preschool education. Technical classes seek to augment women's skills and so facilitate greater economic independence.



Left and Below: Beginning with the foundation of a sewing class, WFP volunteers built a school specializing in vocational training. English language and empowering "character education" are ongoing.



Communicating the Spirit and Work of WFWP to the United Nations Community



Opening Plenary included (l to r) Ms. Dorota Gyriecz, UN Division for the Advancement of Women, Dr. Hanifa Mezoui, Chief NGO Section, DESA who brought the Secretary General's Message, Ms. Motoko Sugiyama, Conference Chair, Mr. Alfatih Hamad, Deputy Director, UNESCO, New York.

**United Nations Headquarters, New York
22nd November, 1999.**



*WFWP Celebrated the International Year for the Culture of Peace 2000 with a one day event at the United Nations Headquarters:
Transforming Our Culture.*

*The day began with a forum and closed with a meeting of hands and hearts on the **Bridge of Peace.***



*Above: Camelia Sadat greets her "sister" on the **Bridge of Peace.***

Right: Maureen Reagan gives the Keynote Address at the Celebration Banquet



*Above: Ambassador June Clarke of Barbados greets her "sister" on the **Bridge of Peace.***

*Left: Ambassador Jargalsaikhany Enkhsaikhan of Mongolia crosses the **Bridge of Peace** to become a "brother" with Dr. Chung Hwan Kwak, IIFWP*

began the following Monday. She also outlined some of the emerging issues that were not present even five years ago at Beijing.

Dr. Teboho Moja, Professor, Higher Education Programme of New York University recognized in her presentation entitled *Special Challenges of Education in Developing Countries* that:

"Education, more than ever before, has become important for supporting a modern economy. . . (and that while) education is at the top of the agenda in both developed and developing countries, it is often used by politicians as a good campaign issue and after elections they only pay lip service to the promises made to gain political power."

Furthermore, she outlined key issues developing nations face such as access, under-representation, success and retention and the brain drain, quality of education, resources and leadership and management.

In reality, she could barely "scratch the surface" of what has to be dealt with, as she clearly and insightfully presented the challenges faced.

Ms. Robin Read, President and CEO, National Foundation for Women Legislators noted in her presentation *Challenges for Women in Leadership and Politics in Developed Countries*:

"Not only this week mark the fifth anniversary of the U.N.'s

landmark conference on women, it also marks a milestone for women in American politics. Fifty years ago this week, Margaret Chase Smith of Maine, the first woman elected to both houses of Congress and the first woman to run for a major party's presidential nomination in America, delivered her now famous "Declaration of Conscience" on the floor of the United States Senate."

Dr. Matsuyo Makino, Professor, Department of International Business, Kobe University of Commerce presented in *The Role of Women in Sustainable Development* the need for a new

"visioning" of what gender equity will actually look like, not just what it should not be:

"Perhaps a more fundamental reason of the political apathy and the failure to encourage women participation is that, while dissatisfied with traditional pattern of growth, people cannot find the goals and the alternative strategy to develop of our own society. The new government policy for gender equality, which emphasizes the liberal aspect of human rights and women's freedom of choice among various life-styles, options to work and so on, does not provide people with a new vision of and women's role in our society for the 21st Century."

Dr. Kathy Winings, Director, International Relief Friendship Foundation, articulated key focal points for *Educating Youth for Peace*

rise of youth gangs in Russia, an increase in crimes by teens in parts of Asia, the continuous rampages by skinheads throughout Europe, and America's on-going social decay, parents, educators and elected officials are calling for character education to become a global concern."

Mr. James Lang of the United Nations' Development Program's Men's Group for Gender Equality provided an insightful, needed and thoroughly under-considered approach to gender equality from the perspective of men's role in this work. (His whole paper can be downloaded in pdf format from our website.)

"Prescribed Gender roles result in asymmetric power relations between men and women - and among groups of men and groups of women. These gender based inequalities are inter linked with other modifiers such as class, race, ethnicity, geographical location, and physical ability.

"Predominantly, gender power relations have left a legacy whereby women are more likely to be disadvantaged relative to men, have less access to resources, benefits, information and decision making, and to have fewer rights both within the household and in the public sphere. Thus far, then, these concerns and the struggle for gender equality have been narrowly perceived to be a "women's issue," and gender programmes designed with a sole focus on women. But if men generally benefit from gender power relations - can we continue to ignore their roles in the struggle for gender equality?"

Beyond being simply informative, this Special Workshop, in conjunction with seminars held the day prior at the New Yorker Hotel, proved to be educational and a part of WFWP's ongoing effort to approach and educate about global issues so as to facilitate real change.

The unique approach of WFWP continues to touch an ever increasing number of women of concern, and to enhance their ability to restore balance and harmonious exchange in all aspects of our ongoing work to establish peace.



Dr. Jim Carmichael, Director of UNAIDS, New York Liaison Office and many WFWP African Project Directors, Friday 2nd June, 2000.

in the 21st Century.

"In essence, these three pillars of a culture of peace would be similar to the Confucian saying: "Our purpose is to manifest shining virtue, love people, and rest in the highest good." Isn't this really the basis of a peaceful and just society?"

"If developing a strong vision for a culture of peace is our first step, and the foundation of that vision has to do with moral and ethical individuals, this requires a renewed emphasis - internationally - on programs which nurture the development of character. Because of the

Participants of the Fourth Women's Conference on Peace in the Middle East Adopt Forward Looking Conclusions

The following were points were adopted by the meeting as a forward-looking agenda and based upon the basic principle:

Women's participation in political life can only take place in a democratic society that recognizes the rights of women.

Full participation of women in political life could be facilitated:

1. Through Education

- Promote the image of women as decision-makers in school curriculum and adult education with a view of changing the current cultural and social attitudes that hamper women's advancement in political and public life.
- Develop leadership skills of girls and women through the school system.

2. By Mobilizing Media to:

- Encourage women's participation in political and public life.
- Reflect women's achievements.
- Project positive leadership images for both men and women.

3. Through Law and Legal Institutions:

- Strengthen the legal framework and bring necessary reforms for effective women's participation in politics;
- Implement laws on gender equality.

4. Finance and Government:

- Find ways to gain financial support to participate in political life
- Governments should finance infrastructure like day care centers that permit women to participate in politics.

5. Utilize NGOs and Women's Solidarity:

- Encourage NGOs to train and socialize women for leadership positions and create networks of support including fund raising for women.
- Select NGOs to monitor the implementation of international treaties concerning women.

6. Quotas:

- Development of gender quotas until parity is reached in representation in political and public entities.



Celebrate World Peace Day 2000

Tuesday, 19 September 2000 at 12:00 noon in any time zone is the time for a minute of silence to rededicate ourselves to creating a world of peace and harmony for everyone. Follow this silence with the words "May Peace Prevail on Earth."

This third Tuesday in September was designated by the United Nations' General Assembly in 1981 as the *International Day of Peace* and is traditionally marked by a Minute of Silence.

What you can do? Light a candle! Ring a bell! Perform an act of kindness! Meet together and read words of inspiration and hope, encouragement and compassion. Let the voices of children be heard. Let our voices be heard — "Let there be peace on earth ... and let it begin with me."

WFWP Chapters in Europe, South America and Asia...

are active, supporting educational, economic empowerment and family health projects, networking and a consistent message to women of the importance of their role in the development and improvement of family, civic and national life.

Stressing the importance of resolving past conflicts and resentments through utilization of WFWP's signature social technology, the Bridge of Peace, WFWP urges women to work their way through the briar patches of resentment and victimization. Next women support one another as they renew their commitment to cultivating sound and healthy family life, constructive community endeavors and new strategies for women in leadership.

The next Women's Newsletter will feature news from other regions of the world. Meanwhile, there are reports available for review on the world wide web at: <http://wfwp.org>.



On the Web ...

For those who can go on-line, there is more news and information about WFWP activities in other regions of the world on WFWP International's web site. Plus, you can add your signature on-line to the list of people supporting UNESCO's Manifesto 2000.

Manifesto 2000

This endeavor, spearheaded by all the Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, seeks to raise awareness of the work of creating a culture of peace. This first step invites people to add their signatures to an ever growing list (the goal is 100 million by 31st December 2000) of individuals who ascribe to the six basic peace principles of the Manifesto.

Add your name. Invite others as well. Have a community signing and commitment to peace. Celebrate World Peace Day at the same time. Let people know, "Peace Begins At Home."

So do tolerance, respect, nonviolence, equality, morality, hope, inspiration, compassion, patience, faith, and best of all, love.

