



66th UN DPI/NGO Conference

Education for Global Citizenship: Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals Together

May 31 - June 1, 2016 - Gyeongju, Republic of South Korea



By Youngsoon Quinn

The 66th United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Conference was held for the very first time in Asia, in the historical and refreshing city of Gyeongju, Republic of Korea, from May 30 - June 1, 2016. DPI organizes annual conferences as an opportunity for NGOs to engage civil society, UN bodies, youth, academic and economic institutions to discuss key issues and solutions. From the DPI conferences, participants are encouraged to become advocates for sustainable peace and the betterment of the human family. This year, the 66th UN DPI/NGO Conference proceeded with the theme, "Education for Global Citizenship: Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals Together," and gathered over 700 NGOs from more than 104 countries. Workshops, roundtables, youth caucuses and an exhibition hall of NGOs were available to participants to gain insights on global challenges and to have the opportunity to form partnerships for the realization of the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

The Honorable Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, gave an address at the opening ceremony and stated that the NGOs should work together as "networks of global opportunity" in fulfillment of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs. SG Ban instructed the

participants to speak out loud and clear, and to listen sincerely to the challenges society is facing, and to join forces with other NGOs in order to foster global citizenship that empowers everyone to contribute to sustainable peace, despite the fact that in this era, mankind is facing a wide range of challenges and crises. SG Ban made it known that all youth want to strive for goodness in the world, but are in need of quality education. He also encouraged the participants, especially the youth to pursue their dreams and passions, and for all to have compassion in striving to become global citizens.

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WFWPI thanks and appreciates UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his outstanding efforts to promote access to education, empower youth and include women's voices in decision-making during his tenure. We congratulate the newly designated Secretary-General, Mr. Antonio Guterres, already respecting him for his leadership as the High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva. We look forward to working together for the accomplishment of the SDG's and other important UN mandates over the next years.

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WFWPI Workshop

@ 66th DPI/NGO Conference

May 29, 2016 - Gyeongju, South Korea

By Jana Lajdova

The Women's Federation for World Peace, International (WFWPI) held a workshop under the theme, "Toward Inclusive, Harmonious Societies and Sustainable Peace: Four Case Studies" at the 66th United Nations Department of Public Information Non-Governmental Organization (DPI/NGO) Conference. The workshop was held as a side event organized by WFWPI, and was well attended by a room full of NGO leaders and members. The four panelists gave presentations about their work and expertise in the field of peace-building in communities, nations and the world.

Moderator Mrs. Alexa Ward, Deputy Director, WFWPI UN Office, greeted the audience and later introduced the WFWPI, International President, Professor Yeon Ah Moon. President Moon warmly welcomed those in attendance and stated that the purpose of the workshop was to gather experts from various

WFWPI Workshop, *contd. on pg. 10*



Statement of Purpose

The Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI) supports a network of National WFWP Chapters in over 120 nations that are dedicated to empower women with "the knowledge, the tools and the support needed to create peace at home, peace in our communities, our nations and throughout the world."



WFWP programs, designed according to local needs and capacities, include: leadership training for women and girls, education for peace and reconciliation, skills development and advocacy at major UN Offices and various regional and national institutions. In support of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, WFWPI maintains over one hundred service projects in fifty nations, in the areas of education, vocational training, microcredit, AIDS prevention education, technical support, medical assistance and nutrition guidance.

WFWP Chapters adhere to the principle that women, working together, taking initiative and empowering one another across traditional lines of age, race, culture and religion to create healthy families, are resolving the complex problems of our 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. From there, peace will naturally expand.

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At the UN in New York ...

UN General Assembly Meeting on Refugees & Migrants

September 19, 2016 - UN Headquarters, New York City

By *Alexa Ward*

The UN General Assembly hosted a high level summit to address large movements of refugees and migrants, for the purpose of bringing countries together to support a framework for a coordinated international response. It was the first time the General Assembly had called for a summit to address this topic on the level of Heads of State and Government.

According to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, at the end of 2015, the number of refugees in the world reached 65.3 million, or one out of every 113 people on Earth. Today, large-scale movements of refugees and migrants are a reality, with countries playing various roles as places of origin, transit or destination depending on the circumstances. The past several years have witnessed an array of crises causing mass movements of refugees and migrants in different parts of the world. While humanitarian assistance has provided immediate relief to millions of people, long-

term responses have been incomplete and uncoordinated.

The Summit included an Opening Session, followed by two Plenary Sessions and six Roundtables. The Summit was attended by heads of state and government, Ministers, leaders from the UN System, as well as representatives from civil society, the private sector, international organizations, and academia. The Opening Session began with an address by H.E Peter Thomson, President of the 21st Session of the General Assembly. Speakers for this session included by H.E. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General; H.E. Filippo Grandi, High Commissioner for Refugees; H.E. William Lacy Swing, Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM); and Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women, on behalf of the Global Migration Group.

During the Opening Session, 193 Member States reached agreement by consensus on a

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Eradicating Extreme Poverty & Achieving Sustainability

August 12, 2016 - UN Headquarters, New York City

By *Roshan D'Souza*

In 1999, the General Assembly declared August 12 as International Youth Day. This created an opportunity to celebrate the views, initiatives and collaborative effort of youth taking place at the UN Headquarters and around the world. On August 12, 2016, the main event commemorating International Youth Day was held in the ECOSOC Chamber of the UN Headquarters in New York.

The theme for International Youth Day 2016 was "The Road to 2030: Eradicating Poverty and Achieving Sustainable Consumption and Production," and featured speakers who discussed different aspects of the production

and consumption cycles with a special focus on SDG 12. Protection of the environment, creation of decent employment opportunities and strengthening of economic competitiveness, sustainable infrastructure, and the building of inclusive, equitable societies were some of the desired outcomes. It was found that changes in consumption patterns also had the potential to contribute to the reduction and eradication of poverty and the accessibility of food, water and energy. Transitioning into a green economy could provide more economic growth and higher spending for social development, health and education.

SDGs, contd. on pg. 8

UN High Level Forum on the Culture of Peace

September 1, 2016 - Trustee Council Chamber, New York City

By *Cynthia Shibuya*

On September 13, 1999, the UN General Assembly adopted the resolution 53/243 on the "Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace." The General Assembly holds an annual High Level Forum for UN Member States, NGOs and civil society and the private sector that serves as an exchange of ideas on ways to build the Culture of Peace.

H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, President of the 70th Session of the General Assembly opened the Forum with welcoming remarks, "It is fitting that the General Assembly discuss concrete ways to strengthen intercultural and interreligious dialogue and the role that the United Nations can play to that effect."

Mr. Edmond Mulet, Chief of Staff of the Secretary-General spoke on behalf of H.E. Ban Ki-moon. "The SDGs are the building blocks for peace and are indispensable for peace and stability based on the rule of law." He particularly stressed that young people must be a priority, "The creativity and potential of young people are immeasurable and we must respect their rights, dignity and invest in providing opportunities they need to thrive."

Ms. Ouided Bouchamaoui, Founder of the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 2015, spoke about the social advances that Tunisia has been able to make through policies of tolerance and dialogue. Still, terrorism is an issue there. She stated, "It is crucial to consider

solutions to terrorism to stem the tide of evil. The international community must support intrastate solutions." Concerning the critical role that young people play in building a society of peace, she added, "We must provide a future for them where they feel like they are stakeholders and are a key part of creating a future that they can mold. The spirit of young people is linked to the spirit of the country."

The opening session included a plenary segment during which representatives of Member States read their statements of commitment, as well as actions steps already taken by their countries, to realize a culture of peace.

Culture of Peace, contd. on pg. 10

At the UN in Geneva ...

33rd Session of the UN Human Rights Council: Panel Discussion

Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls

September 12-30, 2016 - UNHQ Geneva

By Emmanuel Termine

One of the most discussed topics of the 33rd Human Rights Council in Geneva was that of violence against women from ethnic minorities, a topic which I personally, like most young people born in the so-called “western world,” knew very little about. Yet debates concerning this issue are not new, appearing under the umbrella heading of efforts to eliminate racism, marginalisation and poverty. More often than not news of events related to this topic in the media is obscured by more important breaking world news, resulting in relatively little awareness of these issues by the masses.

Article 22 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples requires that all countries must take measures, in cooperation with the local communities, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy full protection from any form of violence and discrimination. Sadly, this is too often not the case and indigenous women of all ages continue to experience high levels of violence in their

own families and communities, as well as within the wider society.

Most of the panellists who took the stage praised the existing efforts of those diligently working to improve the conditions of women and girls from ethnic minorities, but each stressed the fact that still today all available data “shows that indigenous women and girls are more likely to suffer gender-based violence than non-indigenous women and girls, including those with disabilities.” For example, indigenous women are “significantly more likely” to be victims of domestic and sexual violence when compared to non-indigenous women. Most unpunished perpetrators come from the same community as the victims.

I ask myself, with a growing sense of discomfort, why this is so, as in report after report given by the panel, the list of acts of violence increases in number, gravity and magnitude. As one panellist stated, such violence can only be understood within the wider context of discrimination and exclusion

which indigenous people and ethnic minorities face, including within political, social, economic and cultural spheres. Furthermore, bias on the part of law enforcement officials and lack of accessible and comprehensive services, including access to justice, can result in a high level of impunity, fuelling a vicious cycle of exclusion and violence.

The crude and explicit scenarios presented might not have been to everyone’s taste, but as the panel discussion proceeded to a close, a unified feeling was palpable in the hall, and the desire on the part of all represented nations to end violence against indigenous women and girls was unanimously expressed. Numerous countries spoke with encouraging messages in the ensuing comments session. For my part, I left the hall in deep reflection. Transformation within a multi-layered society is dominated by conflicts of interest, but if every person, like myself, takes ownership of this issue and relays the experiences of these women and girls, change is sure to happen.



32nd Session of the UN Human Rights Council: WFWPI Side Event

Family & Prevention of Social Epidemics, Youth Radicalisation, and Sexualisation of Children

June 23, 2016 - UNHQ Geneva

By Carolyn Handschin

As government discussions took place regarding the wording of the third in a series of Human Rights Council Resolutions on the “Protection of the Family” (A/HRC/32/L.35), an important side event was being held in a room nearby on the topic “Family and the Prevention of Social Epidemics, Youth Radicalisation, and the Sexualisation of Children.”

Organized by Women’s Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI), Family Watch, Universal Peace Federation (UPF), Alliance Defending Freedom International (ADF) and supported by five other NGOs, the event was convened by Carolyn Handschin, Director of WFWPI UN Office, who expressed that “healthy families are an investment in community and nation, promoting empathy and social responsibility. This meeting is not about blaming parents or government, but about discovering new, preventative solutions through a re-assessment of priorities and current trends in family policies.”

Annie Franklin, Director of International Activities for Family Watch International (FWI) invited the audience to watch a documentary entitled “War on Children: The Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) Agenda.” This controversial program is being recommended for very young children and is being introduced in public schools throughout the world ([http://](http://www.truli.com/video/the-war-on-children)

www.truli.com/video/the-war-on-children). “CSE is not a sex education program as we know it, but describes a dangerous assault on the health and innocence of children,” explained a spokesperson for the American College of Pediatricians in the film. The dangers of this new trend in education were assessed by educators, physicians, lawmakers and concerned parents, who concluded that this very “non-comprehensive” program was essentially “designed to change sexual and gender norms of society, promote high-risk sexual behaviors and encourage even the youngest of children to experiment sexually.”

Senior Council at the UN for ADF, **Reuben Navarro**, began his speech by relating a story. He explained that during the intergovernmental “drafting session” on the current Resolution being debated, one delegate spoke out, saying, “Alright. Now we have a resolution on the protection of the family (2015). But it is individuals we need to protect, not families. Is there even one mention in any UN founding document calling for the defense and protection of families?” The chair of the meeting responded with some irony, “Have you ever heard of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 16.3, ratified by your government in 1948? It reads, “The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.”” He continued by saying, “Similar mention is found in the Convention on the Rights of the



Child, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966), the Convention on the Rights of Migrants and the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. I guess this oversight explains why we need new resolutions and reminders.” Studies have shown that stable, natural families statistically and historically have provided benefits to communities.

Mr. Hafid Ouardiri, spokesperson for the Islamic Community in Geneva for 28 years and founder of “Fondation Entre-connaissance” was the next presenter. He said, “I always knew and was taught that to have a healthy world, we need healthy families. Life experience can make us an expert, and that is the more valuable “expertise.” In Islam, the family has an extremely important position in the community and in the education of future citizens. I can only humbly thank my mother for having guided me through critical moments in my life. She had little formal education. What used to be “normal” is no

Family & Prevention, contd. on pg. 8

At the UN in Geneva ...

32nd HRC: International Geneva Gender Champions Campaign Gender Equality: What will you do? Power of Empowered Women

June 6, 2016 - UN Geneva

By *Jimin Park Millet, WFWP Intern*

The International Gender Equality Champions Campaign (IGEC) was launched at Palais des Nations in Geneva on 1 July 2015 by Mr. Michael Moller, Director-General of the UN in Geneva, and Ambassador Pamela Hamamoto, the US Permanent Representative to the UN, both of whom are senior leaders in the campaign initiative. The goals of the organization are to connect institutions and individuals to create a more substantial platform to promote gender equality. The IGEC is now providing tools and skills to women supporting them to realize their full potential, and to recognize the contribution they make to society by providing them with equal opportunities.

Mr. Moeller has undertaken the bold initiative to announce that he will “no longer accept invitations to serve on panels without any female representative.” This is the essence of IGEC. His decision may appear radical, but as women represent only around one third of the senior leadership in the UN system, his decisive step was necessary to help bring about changes needed to promote equal representation and empowerment of women.

Even in today’s more advanced society, it is still a very challenging situation for women. How can women become more influential and able to impact during these times? There are many diverse means by which we can help to empower women, such as in political, spiritual, social, educational, economic and gender-related fields.

In these sessions, the focus was specifically on the issue of gender equality. Unfortunately, things are not yet as equal as they should be. Many women seek to achieve great things and want to be empowered, but they don’t have the confidence, the tools or substantial support which would enable them to realize their aspirations.

The concept behind the work of IGEC is to create a network of decision makers who can implement a process which will eventually allow more women’s voices to be heard, by initiating concrete measures, both in areas of professional executive management positions and in the private sector. As an example, one such initiative might be to recruit and promote hard-working, talented women, and highlight their work and results on the company home page. An annual meeting is a time to exchange transformational



WFWPI Team with former Human Rights Council President, Ambassador Laura Dupuy Lasserre (Uruguay)

experiences and strategy on how to further develop gender equality. These processes can also be facilitated through collaboration with other NGO’s and with private sector businesses that share common goals and commitments.

Ambassador Hamamoto emphasized that “ensuring that women and girls can participate on equal platforms with men and boys is amongst the most transformative changes we can set in motion.”

The point was made that the moment women take the initiative to educate themselves and begin take to take their first steps forward is the moment in which they begin to empower themselves. This concept of the willingness and courage to take action oneself is as important as the efforts institutions and organizations will continue to make in the fight for gender equality.

Reference: www.genevagenderchampions.com

17th Session: What is the Human Rights Council “Advisory Committee”?

September 8 - 12, 2016 - UN Geneva

By *Carolyn Handschin*

The Human Rights Council (HRC) has several mechanisms which function to assist in its work as the main intergovernmental human rights body within the United Nations system. One of the lesser known, but valuable, entities is the Advisory Committee. It was created at the time of the transition from the UN Commission on Human Rights (1946-2006) to the Human Rights Council (2006 to date). The Advisory Committee is a modified version of the former “Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights,” which met for the last time in the summer of 2006, following the provision of many outstanding scholarly reports which often influenced decisions taken in the now-defunct Commission on Human Rights.

The Human Rights Council Advisory Committee is a think tank consisting of 18 independent experts “with recognised competence in the field of human rights,” of “high moral standing” and “impartiality.” Their research-based advice focuses on thematic issues related to the mandate of the Human Rights Council. Each member serves for three years, with re-election possible once. Some themes that have been treated since its inception are: “Missing Persons,” “Right to Food,” “Right to Peace,” “Human Rights Education and

Training,” “Traditional Values,” and “Local Government and Human Rights.”

The Advisory Committee meets for only ten working days per year. However, it is encouraged to interact between sessions with States, human rights institutions and NGO’s, and may be further mandated for certain tasks. It met for the 17th Session on 8-12 August 2016 where current mandates were discussed, such as topics related to unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents, the negative impact of the repatriation of funds of illicit origin on the enjoyment of human rights, regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights, and leprosy-related discrimination.

Of special interest, due to the global immigration crises, was the call for expert advice on the plight of unaccompanied migrant children. HRC Resolution 29/12 of 2 July 2015 requested the Advisory Committee to develop a research-based study concerning threats to and violations of the human rights of unaccompanied migrant children, to make recommendations and submit these to the 33rd Session of the HRC. One such recommended action was the encouragement of better coherence and cooperation amongst parties engaged in the issue, beginning with those within the UN system itself.

Statements were made by Committee members and “observers” representing States on the various issues. The Chair of the Drafting Group introduced a text endorsed by all members for use in a formal letter to be sent to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and their Families, and to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children. The purpose was to request a new level of coordination and responsibility-sharing in assessing and responding to the needs of unaccompanied migrant children. The draft letter was unanimously adopted by all. A report of the resulting achievements by the Committees will be given in the 39th HRC session.

During the session, it was also decided to re-submit the research proposal on youth, human rights and social cohesion, and to submit a new research proposal on climate induced displacement. Discussions were held based on draft reflection papers regarding the destruction of cultural heritage and its effect on the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, and also based on the topic of access to justice: principles and guidelines.

HRC Advisory Council, *contd. on pg. 8*

At the UN in Vienna ...

7th Conference on Global Citizen Education

New Paths to Social Cohesion for Safer Cities

October 11, 2016 - UN Vienna

By D. Zoehrer, G. Zoehrer, M. Hinterleitner and E. Riedl

Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI) UN Vienna Office, WFP Austria, together with the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS), invited representatives of the Diplomatic Community, civil society, political leaders, international NGOs and educators to the 7th Conference on Global Citizen Education: "New Paths to Social Inclusion for Safer Cities."

Mr. Georg Pfeifer, Directorate-General for Communication and Information at the Austrian Office of the European Parliament, opened the conference expressing his thanks to the organizers for preparing this timely event by briefly mentioning EU instruments that aim to produce safer cities, this being the 14th European Week of Regions and Cities, where important projects and innovative approaches to managing cities and regions have been showcased in Brussels.

Mr. Othmar Karas, Member of the European Parliament, sent a video message expressing his gratitude to the organizers for launching this conference focused on finding practical solutions to the serious challenges facing modern cities, as a result of globalization and migration. For European cities to attain a more inclusive worldview and contribute to global solutions, it should be in our interest to work on a rules-based world order rooted in multilateralism/multiculturalism.



Speakers and Moderator of Panel 1

Panel 1: Social Inclusion for Safer Cities

Mr. Roland Seegar, Deputy Permanent Representative of the German Mission to the UN, eloquently chaired Panel 1. The presentations on this panel established the tone for the conference, as panelists assessed the present situation.

Dr. Hannes Swoboda, President of the International Institute for Peace, Former MEP, leader of the Socialist Faction in Brussels and City Counsellor for Urban Planning in Vienna, identified three central tasks that would need to be considered in order to ensure social inclusion

in cities: first, to provide housing conducive to good health and children's education; second, to ensure equal opportunities in school education; and third, to facilitate job opportunities for newcomers.

Dr. Yvonne Franz, representing the Institute for Urban and Regional Research of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, added a further dimension to the question of social inclusion, by emphasizing the need for collecting empirical data concerning the topics of place attachment, social embeddedness ("sense of belonging") and compensation spaces outside of immediate neighborhoods. She presented concrete results of her team's research project.

Dipl.-Ing.in Shams Asadi, Head of the Human Rights Office of the City of Vienna, confirmed that social inclusion is a multi-layered process that requires the development of new networks. She presented a short overview of concrete actions aimed at integrating 40,000 newcomers, providing jobs, combatting radicalization and Anti-Semitism.

Ms. Anika Holterhof, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), analyzed the challenge of urbanization from the perspective of crime and violence. After highlighting root causes of urban crime, such as income inequality, unemployment, lack of youth inclusion and public services, and issues related to financial crises, she pointed out the paramount importance of prevention strategies. These specific strategies would be targeting a long-term safety governance approach that would ensure public resilience.

Dr. Michael Platzer, Academic Council on the UN System and Former Chief Operations UN Habitat, Nairobi, elaborated further on new problems arising with expanding cities worldwide: "We are approaching a world where 5 billion people are living in cities." Dr. Platzer explained that cultural diversity is a matter of fact in large cities, and is something we can learn to appreciate by enabling minority groups to be represented in decision making bodies. Such minorities not only encompass ethnic and religious groups, but also include mothers, children and the elderly.

Following the first session there was a Picture Presentation Donation by Vivien Kabar, of the UNESCO City Club Vienna. The picture represented "children who are being lost in the system." Mag Pfeiffer received the picture on behalf of the EU House in Vienna ("Art Against Violence" 2014, awarded by the Interior Ministry and the Criminal Investigation Department Austria).

The Children's Choir of the European School Goldschlagasse performed, and provided a colourful musical introduction to Panel 2.



Children's Choir, European School Goldschlagasse



Members of the audience

Panel 2: Global Citizen Education as a Multicultural Tool for Peaceful and Inclusive Cities

Mr. Peter Zoehrer, founder of the Forum for Religious Freedom Europe opened the second panel by citing education as a most powerful tool, emphasizing the need for very young children to be part of integration – in a setting where friendships have no boundaries.

VDn Dipl.-Päd. Doris Berki Uhlir, Director of the European Primary School Vienna delivered the subject entitled "Transmitting Values of Openness to Foreign Cultures, Immigrants and Pluralism: A Vienna School as an Example." This educational model builds upon the four pillars of: 1. Europe, 2. language, 3. diversity, and 4. health. "Monolingualism is easy to cure," Mrs. Uhlir said, as she explained how the language programs offered at her school provide an environment for appreciating the diversity of European cultures.

Dr. jur. habil. Sławomir Redo, Senior Adviser at the Academic Council on the United Nations System in Vienna contrasted the concept of "the right to the city" to the idea of the right to sustainable development. He emphasized that a universal sense of justice can be attained not only theoretically but also practically through urban policies that facilitate caring for a city's public and green spaces, and kindergartens. Emphasizing that a city's space is the 'pace' for the United Nations' sustainable development ecumenical concept, invoking 'shared responsibility' where Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) together with NGOs, Schools and Community leaders cooperate on safety and numerous social justice priorities with the City community at large.

Dr. Amer Albayati, Islam and Terror Expert, and President of the Initiative Liberaler Muslime Österreich (ILMÖ) offered a presentation entitled "Looking for New Inroads into Making Culturally Inclusive Cities: Vienna as a Case

Global Citizen, *contd. on pg. 9*

Support Strategic Initiatives:

WFWP Founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon has been emphasizing the wisdom of investment for the future in young leaders and, more recently, in nations with a potential for appreciable development. She stressed as well the importance of outside support – regional and global – for these strategic opportunities for development around the world. Over the next few editions, our newsletter will highlight these 13 nations, hoping that from amongst our readers, there may be ideas for networking and resource-sharing with these WFWP chapters. Address details are listed and they would surely be delighted to hear from you.

Democratic Republic of Congo

By Anne Marie Lingulongo Haissi, WFWP DR Congo

The Democratic Republic of Congo WFWP chapter has attracted a great number of eminent women leaders through their conferences, debates and various community projects over the years. Ministers, heads of political parties, Governors, Princesses, the daughters of a Tribal Chief, lawyers, university professors, and Presidents of NGOs and Syndicates have expressed great interest and appreciation for the ethical and ideological content presented to them. They felt enriched by their experience; many have received the WFWP Ambassador for Peace award and have decided to join our activities and projects. The DR Congo WFWP has a membership of 250, still in its young stage of development.

The DR Congo is a large country with 26 provinces. However, it lacks road infrastructure. This has affected greatly the development of WFWP throughout the country. WFWP hopes to find a stable headquarters and transportation means to facilitate and develop new branches in other provinces. Office equipment such as computers, projectors, cameras and other items are also needed to provide better educational programmes for women, young people and those involved in outreach programs, community support and educational activities. WFWP supports projects to create financial independence for women, such as sewing classes. It also facilitates the integration of women and young people in community-based projects. In addition to these, they are also developing agro-pastoral projects, some already designed and implemented.

(Translated from French to English and submitted by Françoise Murphy, WFWP UK)

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'The Gender Equality 50 – 50 by 2030, a Problematic related to Education' a WFWP RD Congo conference held on 26/ 03/2016.



Delivery of goods (milk, sugar, coffee, rice and loincloths) for the needy



Inaugural Conference of WFWP on the topic of 'Women's Dignity? to establish a Society of Peace' held in Bukavu on 10/08/2014.



'Equality between Men and Women for a Sustainable Development for Peace by 2030' WFWP conference held on 8th March 2016



'Family Ethics and the Role of Women in the Stability of the Home' educational seminar organised by WFWP RD Congo, co-sponsored by 'Service National' held in Kinshasa in August 2002.



Agro-pastoral projects organised by WFWP RD Congo



Rev Hak Ja Han, founder of WFWP, Her Vision and WFWP's Objectives' organised by WFWP RD Congo on the 23rd anniversary. Held in Kinshasa in 2015



'Awareness about HIV / AIDS' organized by WFWP at CS MUKABA

Focus on Africa & Central America

Dominican Republic

WFWP Dominican Republic has been active since 1994 with a focus on AIDS prevention education lectures as its main project. Early seminars were held in government and police institutions, churches, and private homes and even under trees. Many areas have no electricity and can be reached only by dangerous windy roads; yet many people came. Over 15,000 people of all ages have participated in the seminars during 2011-2014 because the educational material matched the urgent needs.

Statistics show that there are over 69,000 HIV carriers in the nation with probably 20,000 not even realizing they are infected. One third of all births are babies born to single

mothers, often teenagers, who then drop out of school. These circumstances increase risk of poverty, domestic violence and family breakdown. WFWP developed "Pure Love and Character Education Seminars" based on moral education and family values, emphasizing love and the true value of sex, responsibility, self respect and self control as a preventive response to the emergency situation. The interest has been overwhelming. The programs have been introduced over the years in middle schools high schools and universities. Additional programs have been created especially for mothers, for congressmen and others. In 2010 WFWP Japan decided to support the

activities and began donating equipment such as computers, projectors, screens and cameras, which improved our situation notably.

Parallel to the education programs, WFWP has been hosting an annual conference, the Global Women's Peace Network Assembly (GWPN) in Santo Domingo. It has been an opportunity to bring together like-minded influential women to share thoughts and plans related to peace and development in an international forum. Two hundred distinguished guests attended this year's high-level assembly. It featured eleven women speakers including government ministers, senators, academics and NGO leaders. Prof. Yeon Ah Moon, President of WFWPI, delivered the Keynote Address. The First Lady, HE Candida Montilla de Medina was represented by an official who expressed appreciation for the very prestigious international event and invited Women's Federation's collaboration with the Office of the First Lady in the important work ahead.



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Global Women Peace Network (GWPN) Conference



Main Project: AIDS Prevention-here at HS PTA Assembly Seminars: Pure Love, Character Education, Ideal Family



Seminars for Women @ NGOs



Seminars in Neighborhood Homes



Pure Love Seminar



Character Education Classes @ Schools



Seminar Graduation



Mothers Day Celebration



Annual International Women's Day Celebrations



Pure Love Seminars @ Churches addressing teenage pregnancy and sexual activity



Origami Classes in various communities for children age 7-12

New York continued ...


Refugees, contd. from pg. 2

far-reaching outcome document, The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. H.E. Filippo Grandi, the High Commissioner for Refugees described the agreement as “a political commitment of unprecedented force and resonance. It fills what has been a perennial gap in the international protection system – that of truly sharing responsibility for refugees, in the spirit of the United Nations Charter.” The Declaration addresses issues related to protecting the human rights of all refugees and migrants, including the rights of women and girls, and promoting their full, equal and meaningful participation in finding solutions; ensuring education for refugee children; improving the delivery of humanitarian and development assistance to those countries most affected; and finding homes for all refugees needing resettlement.



In addition, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and H.E. William Lacy Swing signed the agreement to make the IOM a Related Organization of the United Nations. Established in 1951, the IOM is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental

partners. The IOM works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced people.

The Women’s Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI) was among a select group of NGOs that were granted the opportunity to attend this historic Summit. Alexa Ward, WFPW International Vice President and Deputy Director for the UN Office, attended the Opening Session as well as one of the two Plenary Sessions. 

SDGs, contd from pg. 2


The leading role young people play in eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development through sustainable consumption and production could make the 2030 Agenda for SDG 12 a reality. Even before the creation of a product, youth are making choices that will increase the co-efficiency of ‘responsible consumption and production’ while minimizing waste. This will ensure equitable socioeconomic development and meeting the basic needs of communities. One of the young female presenters dramatically displayed a plastic container about the size of a small take-out salad that contained her entire garbage for the month.

The need for social, political, economic and environmental collaboration to achieve SDG 12 was emphasized by UNSG’s Envoy on Youth, Ahmad Alhendawi, who called

on governments, foundations, civil society organizations, and the youth movement to “mark the day by highlighting the positive contributions of youth in development and by pledging to engage with youth as partners in the implementation of the SDGs.”

Those present were challenged to submit their planned activities to youth@un.org with a reward of being placed on a world map of events. A tool kit that encouraged the use of social media and creativity in working with civic groups was presented to all the attendees. The kit included the following suggestions: 1. be active; 2. spread the word; 3. engage the community; 4. organize; 5. advocate and engage media; 6. use art; and 7. make it fun.

Later in the afternoon, another event took place entitled, “Investing in Young Women’s Leadership is Key to Implementing the SDGs.” This event was organized by UN Women, in collaboration with the UN Interagency Network on Youth Development. The event convened fifteen young women leaders to share experiences and strategies on how to empower other young women and inspire a new generation of leaders to fulfill the vision of gender equality and sustainable development by the year 2030. “Leadership is not a choice anymore, it is a necessity,” remarked Monica Singh, acid attack survivor and UN Women Global Youth Champion.

During closing remarks, Ravi Karkara, Senior Advisor at UN Women, stated, “Investing in young women will not only change the trajectory of their future but that of their communities as well.” 

Geneva continued ...


Family & Prevention, contd. from pg. 3

longer – father, mother, children, and love were priorities. We have so little time with our children. Their time and interest is usurped by their peers and by social media. That quality of family life which is so important for our internal development and for the functioning of our moral compass has been dangerously weakened, and those who understand the importance of this quality must defend it. As a Moslem, I am constantly exposed to a stethoscope – I am expected to be and think a certain way. I find myself dealing with radicalization, sexualization and decadence every day. My heart, education and experience have always told me that the solutions are related to the family, spirituality and moral principles, yet it is so difficult to educate based on this sense of priorities today.”


The final speaker, **Mr. Heiner Handschin**, Director of UPF UN Office in Geneva said, “I practice family values every day. What are social epidemics? This terminology can be ascribed to disturbingly prevalent elements in our society

such as youth radicalization, drug abuse, and uncommitted relationships. Children in stable families are more fortunate in every way. Instability is widespread, however we cannot just accept as normal what is so unfortunate. We must visualize and strive for the highest of ideals. Statistics from the UK show divorce rates at 39% (2016); 47% of children are born out of marriage. A single parent household results in difficulties for both children and parent. The cost of family breakdown in the UK is higher than the defense budget – nearly 55 billion pounds per year. By comparison, the budget to prevent such breakdown is less than 7.5 million pounds.

Most scholars now agree that children raised by two biological parents in a stable marriage do better than children in other forms of households.

Mr. Handschin stressed that a key component of the sustainable health of families is marital commitment. Research has shown that shown that “deciding” to create a long-term commitment to family, versus merely “sliding” into a relationship, affects its quality, its longevity and the well-being of any children. When education norms in the family are absent, schools are expected to fill the gap. Children need to be taught to be good, before they are educated to be smart. 

HRC Advisory Council, contd from pg. 4

In order to broaden the expertise of the Advisory Committee, it was decided in its 15th Session (2015) that a body should be established which could promote academic friendship between universities and academics around the world. This body of scholars has been called “Academic Friends of the Advisory Committee.” 

Vienna continued ...

Global Citizen, contd. from pg. 5

in Point.” Mentioning his own migration background, Dr. Albayati emphasized the importance of immigrants respecting the traditions of their new homelands. His appeal to citizens with migration background was to become engaged in direct, open dialogue with the current residents and to actively promote peaceful co-existence and harmony in diversity.

Mr. Hannes Kolar, Director of the Psychological Service of the Office of Youth and Family in Vienna, addressed the issue of trauma education for young people in his presentation entitled “Use of Technology for Traumatized Children.” He showed a video which introduced an emergency program aiming to support children and youth severely affected by traumatic war experiences. His video explained how professional psychological support can be obtained, and are offered online in German language as well as Arabic and Farsi (see link).

Prof. Dr. Rita Haverkamp, Endowed Professor of Crime Prevention and Risk Management at the Eberhard Karls University in Tübingen/Germany, spoke on the topic “Pre-school Education in the Munich Kindergartens.” While providing a range of statistical data on kindergartens and day care centers, she emphasized that in Munich already 21,000 children below the age of three have a migration background (meaning that at least one parent is from a foreign country), compared to 17,000 children without a migration background. As Munich’s number of inhabitants rises, the demand for kindergartens and day care centers increases and systematic,



Speakers and Moderator of Panel 4

intercultural Teacher Training is needed.

Panel 3: Safe Cities, the Role of Parents toward Social Inclusion and a Healthy Society

Panel 3 was chaired by Mr. Peter Haider, Director of Universal Peace Federation Austria.

Stella A. Attakpah, MSc. Managing Director, Opportunity and Risk Management Institute, Ghana presented on “Self-development, an important factor in achieving sustainable development.” A presentation was given by **Mag. Josef Missethon** Msc Med, Managing Director of Institute for Talent Development entitled “Young unaccompanied refugees: No parents – no chance? How stability, values and goals can create a safe society. Experiences from practice.” **Dr. Belinda Mikosz**, retired Director of Psychology Service, Office of Youth and Family, City of Vienna presented on “Different ways to provide quality education.” **Mag. Hannes Kolar**, Director of Psychology Service, Office of Youth and Family, City of Vienna: offered his production “‘Exbärte’ – Video guide for parents.”

Panel 4: Core Value Pillars: Education of Heart, Enabling a Healthy Lifestyle, Best Practices

Panel 4 was chaired by Elisabeth Riedl, Director of WFWPI UN Office Vienna.

Dr. Maria Riehl, Founder WFWP Austria presented on “Four Pillars of Love in a Family.” Other speakers on this panel included Mag. Richard Veres, Educator in Bratislava, Slovakia presenting on the topic “Healthy Character Education at school”; Zita Kiedler, BED Teacher at NMS Anton-Sattler-Gasse, Vienna presenting on “Peer Mediation, a Project in Junior High School”; and Mrs. Fran E. Wright, Programme Director of UNESCO Club Vienna and Ms. Foteini Kanatsouli presenting on the topic “Peace lies in our Hands.”

Closing remarks were given by Dr. Slawomir Redo, encouraging the promotion of “soft education tools.” He thanked Elisabeth Riedl for the organisation of the event, and expressed hope that governments can look more at the work of NGOs. Dr. Michael Platzer invited the speakers and organizers of the conference to come to the stage, accompanied by the song: “Peace lies in our hands,” produced by UNESCO City Club.

Special thanks to the European House in Vienna for graciously hosting this event. The building (German: Haus der Europäischen Union) houses the mission of the EU-Commission in Austria and the Information Office of the European Parliament.

Full report of the conference on www.wfwpi.org



Engaging Civil Society to Build Security and Cohesion in Europe

June 29, 2016 - European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium

By Carolyn Handschin and Jana Ljida

WFWP-Europe brought more than 130 participants from throughout Europe to Brussels on June 29, 2016, to attend a WFWP event hosted by a member of the EU Parliament to debate the theme, “Engaging Civil Society to Build Security and Cohesion in Europe.” Speakers included European parliamentarians, United Nations experts, academics, journalists, educators, researchers and NGO leaders. The supporting organizations included the World Youth Alliance, the Universal Peace Federation Europe and Women Without Borders.

Experts from very diverse fields addressed the causes and consequences of the serious trends in youth radicalization in Europe, aiming to provide useful information and recommendations to the European Parliament and individual governments that are confronted with dealing with these pervasive issues.

The first session, entitled “**The Role of Women and Mothers in the Prevention of Radicalisation of Youth,**” began with opening

remarks by two European Parliamentarians: Hon. Flavio Zanonato, former Minister of Economic Development in Italy, and Hon. Cecile Kyenge, former Minister for Integration in Italy, who highlighted intercultural dialogue as being the precondition for peace and freedom of religion, and emphasized the role of women, particularly mothers, in fighting radicalization of youth.

Mrs. Carolyn Handschin, Director WFWPI UN Office and the Young Women’s Human Rights Internship Programme of WFWPI, spoke about the importance of family education and the responsibility of parents to be good role models and provide vision for their children. She spoke of the Sustainable Development Goals as a means to engage youth in constructive projects, to lure them away from destructive or extremist tendencies. Ms. Dolgor Solongo, a representative from the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), explained the endeavors of the UNODC in countering terrorism and violent extremism by supporting schools,



universities and student associations around the world. This presentation was followed by that of Ms. Bouchra Belguellil, a researcher from the Institute Perspective & Sécurité in Europe (IPSE), whose academic research concerns why young women join a jihadist movement and what role they play once in. They are not always seeking to be a bride; the motivation to join such a movement can be to acquire a leading and prominent position, which had not been possible in their everyday cultural setting. Mrs. Souad Sbai, a French journalist, professor and former politician raised in Morocco, then spoke about the problematic situation of women in

EU Parliament, contd. on pg. 12

WFWPI Workshop, contd. from pg. 1



Christelle Ngama, VP Mothers of Congo

fields and form partnerships to work together toward world peace.

Mrs. Moriko Hori, President of WFWPI, Japan, presented her speech titled, “WFWPI Overseas Volunteer Activities: Humanitarian Projects and Beyond.” Mrs. Hori introduced the overseas projects of WFWPI, Japan, which began in 1994. The work of the volunteers not only provided international experience and education for the youth volunteers, but also the creation of new opportunities and improved well-being for the citizens and their communities. Currently, there are about 100 WFWPI projects in 49 countries that focus on nurturing and educating women and youth through academic education and vocational training, as well as instruction on building sustainable living environments centered on ethics, dignity and the inclusion of women.

Ms. Svjetlana Jovic, Team Leader of the Civil Affairs Office, United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), spoke of the Syrian crisis, explaining that fifty-one percent of the refugees are children. Ms. Jovic informed the audience that the Syrian issue is the largest refugee and displacement crisis. UNIFIL, in

partnership with WFWPI as well as other UN organizations, foundations, corporations and NGOs, has been able to provide humanitarian aid, education and recreational activities for refugee children in Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan. One recent project that UNIFIL has been implementing is the use of the internet for the continuation of academic education in emergency situations.

Ms. Jeong Hae Ahn-Kim, President of Women Making Peace, introduced the history of colonialism, militarism and patriarchy that occurred in the North and South of Korea, and spoke about the South Korean women’s efforts for peace and reconciliation through conferences and peace marches. Ms. Kim stated that women were affected by war and militarism, and must be a part of the decision making process to end the civil and international unrest.

Ms. Christelle Ngama, Vice-chair of Mothers of Congo, is a young woman living in the UK who, at the age of twenty-seven, has created and been involved in several volunteer projects for her home country, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Ms. Ngama stated that the organization is working to stabilize the political situation in the DRC, prevent sexual violence against women, preserve the Congolese culture and empower individuals and communities to become global citizens.

A question and answer session followed, and the workshop concluded that harmonious societies can be attained through international partnerships, humanitarian service, inclusion of women and youth and the involvement of dedicated global citizens for the building of sustainable peace.



Miroko Hori, Alexa Ward, Yeon Ah Moon - WFWPI President, Jeong Hae Ahn-Kim, Svjetlana Jovic;

Culture of Peace, contd. from pg. 2

The afternoon consisted of two panel discussions: “Enhancing Synergy between Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and Eight Action Areas of the UN Programme of Action on Culture of Peace,” and “The Role of Youth in Advancing the Culture of Peace in the Context of the Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution on Youth, Peace and Security.” The panels were followed by interactive discussions.

H.E. Lykketoft ended the Forum with remarks covering the three emphasized areas –

Education, Youth and Women. “Women have a major role to play in promoting the Culture of Peace and bringing about lasting peace, particularly in strife-torn societies. Unless women are in the forefront of the practice and promotion of peace, long-term solutions will elude us.” He concluded that the individual dimension is the core message for creating the Culture of Peace.



66th DPI/NGO, contd. from pg. 1

The conference addressed a number of issues and provided the opportunity for discussions on a variety of topics, including accessible and inclusive learning spaces and expanding opportunities for youth in the areas of the sciences, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM). This expansion is essential for the development of all nations, and will help to ensure quality education for children and youth.

As part of the conference, WFWPI held a workshop under the theme, “Toward Inclusive, Harmonious Societies and Sustainable Peace: Four Case Studies” on the first full day of the conference. WFWPI also displayed an exhibition booth throughout the conference, showcasing its worldwide activities in support of the Sustainable Development Goals.

At the conclusion of the conference, gratitude was expressed to the participating NGOs and representatives for supporting the theme of global citizenship. Great hope was placed on the NGOs and youth, who then recommitted to work for peace through partnerships aimed at fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals. Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi, Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth, stated that, “no one can do everything, but everyone can do something.” The Gyeongju Action Plan was then presented to the NGOs and participants, which states that Agenda 2030 will be achieved through education and the spirit of global citizenship. The Gyeongju Action Plan can be viewed on UN DPI/NGO Conference website.



WFWPI Internship Program

Geneva

Men Fighting for Women's Rights

Reflections on the 33rd Human Rights Council - September 2016

By Emmanuel Termine



In September I had the honour of following Carolyn Handschin (WFWPI UN Office Director) through the panel discussions and conferences of the 33rd Human Rights Council in Geneva and to see first hand the great work that Women's Federation for World Peace International is doing. Obviously, one of the recurring themes for the council is the implementation of Women's Rights and this session was no exception; panels tackled different issues in various fields spanning from maternal morbidity and mortality to the violence against women in indigenous communities.

I was asked, somewhat hesitantly, if it would be fine for me to represent WFWPI as an intern, which I was more than happy to do. Participating at the Human Rights Council revealed itself, in fact, to be a great opportunity to see many good people passionate for the most noble causes and I felt the breeze of the world changing towards the better. After following a couple of conferences and side events, though, I remarked an interesting phenomenon: the disparity of genders in people stepping up for Women's Rights. Witnessing a significant

majority of women makes one wonder about the difficulties men may have to speak out in their support, but before assessing how it can be done, it is worth looking at the magnitude of gender oppression and discrepancy.

According to the World Health Organisation, over a third of women globally have suffered violence from a partner or sexual violence from another man. The UN estimates that about 133 million girls and women have suffered female genital mutilation, and believes that nearly all of the 4.5 million people "forced into sexual exploitation" are girls and women. Sexual violence is a severely under-reported crime with surveys showing dark figures of up to 91.6%, but in Britain alone "estimates speak of about 1.2 million women who suffer domestic violence a year, 400,000 are sexually assaulted, and 85,000 are raped."

Oppression shows itself also on an economic and financial level. The International Monetary Fund director Christine Lagarde describes "an insidious conspiracy" against women through laws, varying in scale across the world, that prevent women from working, learning or accessing information. Women are disproportionately concentrated in the "lowest paid, most insecure and often most demeaning forms of work." The discrepancy of salaries is

visible even in the most developed countries with all but modelling being instances of a financial lack of equal treatment of women. They also do the vast majority of unpaid housework and childcare.

Our societies are built on precarious social and cultural norms which originate from earlier than the Middle Ages and today still dictate the boundaries of how men and women are supposed to behave. Those who do not conform to the stereotypes are often victims of sexism. It's effects visible in the most subtle considerations such as assuming that a woman who walks in a hospital room is a nurse while a man necessarily a doctor. Even when access to education is present other forms of social oppression take form. The Times of India recently reported, in fact, that only 17% of Indian women who graduate from medical school end up practicing despite being the largest percentage of medical students. The cause being that the degree is only seen as a tool for qualifying in finding a partner.

Even art and literature are not spared from the disparity of genders. The idea of female beauty represents perhaps the greatest of the forms of oppression that affects girls starting from early childhood along most of a woman's life. Men, once again, stand at the very epicentre oppressing women in the millions through the fashion and media industries. The very language we use is marked with expressions such as "Stop being such a woman," or "Be a man," which are only examples of a lingering sexism. Women are left struggling with their beauty and men unable to talk about their

Geneva Intern, contd. on pg. 12

New York

Young Adult Participation at the 66th UN DPI/NGO Conference

May 31 - June 1, 2016 - Gyeongju, Republic of Korea

By Christina Lange



Several young adults from Europe, Korea, and the U.S. representing Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI) attended the 66th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference held in Gyeongju, Republic of Korea. The theme of the conference was "Education for Global Citizenship: Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals Together." For most, it was their first experience attending this annual international event hosted by the UN Department of Public Information (DPI).

In his address at the opening ceremony, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon remarked,

"Youth must assume greater responsibility in creating a better world for all."

Consistent with his message, the DPI/NGO Conference provided the youth represented at the conference with many opportunities for involvement, including daily youth caucuses, a youth hub, and a youth press conference.

The conference highlighted the importance of raising the voices of the young people in tackling global issues and promoting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As expressed by Ms. Jana Lajdova, UPF intern in Geneva, a particularly interesting aspect of the conference was "being able to network with young professionals from all around the world who have been engaged in youth activities and advocating for various causes."

The thematic roundtables of the conference gave the WFWPI youth representatives valuable insight into the work of the United Nations and NGOs in promoting the SDGs. Ms. Youngsoon Quinn, WFWPI intern in Korea, shared, "Before the event, I had some awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals. However, after participating in the roundtables and workshops and observing the exhibition hall, I was able to get a first-hand experience of what was being done and what could be done to put the goals into action to care for the human family." Ms. Lajdova also commented, "The content of the meetings and panel discussions gave me a lot to think about, especially on the topic of how to implement the Sustainable Development Goals in my area of work."

In addition to learning about the SDGs and the role of NGOs on the grassroots level, two of the WFWPI youth gained inspiration regarding their respective professional fields. Ms. Nicole Thurner, WFWPI intern in Geneva, applied her experience at the conference to her studies: "I am studying online communications, and this experience helped me realize how important it is to socialize, network and build strong connections with other people, NGOs, and groups to achieve something great. The internet has a huge potential to influence others and stay connected with hundreds of people." Ms. Helen Clerbout-Bressers, WFWPI youth representative from the Netherlands, also reflected, "I was especially inspired by the theme 'education' and how it can greatly impact so many other fields, such as overcoming poverty and extremism by providing young people with new opportunities. As a matter of fact, the theme inspired me so much that I have decided to finally go into teaching myself!"

Throughout the conference, WFWPI youth participants actively supported the WFWPI workshop and exhibition booth. In working together with other WFWPI members, Ms.

New York Intern, contd. on pg. 12

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Since 1994 WFWPI has dispatched volunteers
worldwide, to implement development
assistance projects based on local needs.



New York Intern, contd. from pg. 11

Althea Corlett, WFWPI youth representative from Malta, felt a sense of partnership: "During the exhibition section and workshop, WFWPI was able to present itself as an active participant in achieving quality education for all. Through our dialogue and presentations, we exchanged ideas about how we can contribute to our societies, nations and world. As a younger member of WFWPI, I made an effort to connect to my peers and form partnerships with the hope to collaborate in the near future. It is truly amazing that, in addition to contributing to the worldly goals of peace, our organization provides so much support on a very personal level. I truly want to thank my peers and the staff of WFWPI for this valuable experience which has been one to remember."

The three-day conference came to a close with the adoption of the "Gyeongju Action Plan," a call for NGOs to achieve the 2030 Agenda, particularly Sustainable Development Goal 4: "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong opportunities for all." Ms. Mion Mogushi, WFWPI intern in Korea, shared her thoughts on the closing ceremony of the conference: "After the adoption agreement, most participants raised their hands to accept the new declaration, which made everyone, including myself, feel confident about changing the reality and proud to be part of the future construction of the world. I hope that the declaration that was made by 'our own hands' will be productive and effectively influence future generations. As one of the global citizens, I feel responsible for the future and am determined to make a difference."

For these WFWPI young adults, one of the most notable moments of the conference was the realization that WFWPI is more than just another NGO; it has a unique and powerful voice with insight that is essential to establishing a peaceful world. While much of the world can be seen struggling to bridge the generation gap and resolve differences, WFWPI functions on a level of respect, reconciliation and partnership, across generations and for the betterment of all. As global citizens, the embodiment of these qualities and values is crucial in advancing toward a peaceful future.

Geneva Intern, contd. from pg. 11

feelings, placing gender bias as the major reason for suicide in young people.

So what is the role of men in all this? As a man one cannot but feel part of the oppression. When I hear of a rape in the news a small part of me feels guilty – guilty for being a man. Suddenly the lack of men in the UN conference rooms is less of a mystery. The liberation of women is down to women, after all, and the great advances that have so far been made are down to the struggle and sacrifice of women: some known, some airbrushed from the history books. The women's movement has taught much to men and changed them for the better to be more encouraging towards women or to have a greater role in raising children. We are so used to various privileges – such as automatically being taken more seriously – that we are not even aware they exist. That's why it is so crucial that men listen to the experiences of women and the organisations that represent them such as the WFWPI, and learn. In the end, men will only stop oppressing women if they change, which means tackling attitudes within their ranks that make possible the objectification of women or which normalise violence against women. This is one of the key arguments made by UN Women Goodwill Ambassadors such as Emma Watson, who actively campaigns to encourage men to support women. Unless men speak out, such attitudes will persist and the oppression against women will continue. That's why I am a proud intern of Women's Federation for World Peace International.

EU Parliament, contd. from pg. 9

the Muslim world, as they must choose between either their career or motherhood, which causes difficulty in the families. The first session was concluded with a video presentation concerning the activities of "Women Without Borders" in the South Pacific. Women there learn practical skills and awareness training, which is geared to helping them recognize some of the warning signs of radicalization in their children.

The second session was entitled "Role of Intercultural/Interreligious Dialogue and Education to Build Security and Cohesion" and focused on both the causes and solutions to the problems of the disenfranchisement and extremist tendencies among youth. This session was convened by Hon. Silva Costa, European Parliamentarian, highlighting the challenges of how to approach education internationally and foster brotherhood among nations in Europe. Hon. Erna Hennicot Schoepges, Former President of Luxembourg Parliament and EU Committee on Culture and Education, reminded participants of the broader historic issue of extremism in Europe. She emphasized again the importance of education within the family, which can bring a solution to the many different issues discussed in the panel. Mr. David Fraser Harris, Universal Peace Federation (UPF) Secretary-General

in the Middle East, emphasized the value of interreligious cooperation in conflict resolution. He mentioned that the reason religious people have impact in the world is not because of their beliefs, but because they practice living for others.

Ms. Geertrui Lanneau, Senior Regional Specialist on Labour Mobility and Human Development from the International Organisation on Migration (IOM) spoke about the efforts of IOM to foster integration and promote the civic and political rights of migrants. Mr. Antoine Mellado, Director of Advocacy of World Youth Alliance (WYA) in Brussels, introduced the Human Dignity Curriculum, a programme that can be directed to prevent youth radicalization. He explained that it is not based on any particular religious belief, and as its name suggests emphasizes the elements of human dignity and universality. Ms. Atefeh Sadeghi, a young trainer in conflict transformation, spoke about focusing on the common aspects of being part of the human family which create cohesion and prevent conflict. She spoke of her own difficulties with integration in making a new home in Europe after emigrating from Iran.

Questions raised during the conference were: What can be done by parents, peers, educational and governmental institutions to replace the desperation and hopelessness among young immigrants in Europe? How can we cooperate in finding solutions and in becoming a truly caring 'human family' committed to 'leaving no one behind'? The conference brought a vision of how a peaceful and intercultural society can work and created the opportunity to discuss how religion can and should be a part of the solution.

One of the parliamentarians commented to the organizers, "How could you bring all these people and create such an atmosphere that allows us to talk so intimately about family and religion as solutions ... here at the European Parliament?" In addition, two attending members of Parliament invited WFWPI to hold a follow-up conference next year.

Upcoming Events

- ❖ Oct 17 International Day of Eradication of Poverty
- ❖ Oct 24 United Nations Day
- ❖ Nov 20 Universal Children's Day
- ❖ Nov 25 Int'l Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
- ❖ Dec 1 World AIDS Day
- ❖ Dec 10 Human Rights Day
- ❖ Mar 13- 24 61st Commission on the Status of Women
- ❖ Mar 2017 34th Human Rights Council
- ❖ Mar 8 International Women's Day
- ❖ April 10 WFWPI 25th Anniversary