



# Women's

## Federation for World Peace International

United Nations Office Newsletter

Fall 2012

### 5th Forum on the Eradication of Poverty Side Event of the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR)/High-Level Segment (HLS) of ECOSOC Substantive Session July 3, 2012 ~ United Nations Millenium Plaza Hotel, New York City



By *Melissa Gontijo, Student at Worcester State College, MA*

#### Speakers

Ms. Lakshmi Puri - Director of UN Women and Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations

Ms. Azita Berar - Director of the Employment Policy Department, UN International Labour Organization (ILO)

H.E. Mr. Antonio Gumende - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Mozambique to the United Nations

Mr. Cheick Side Diarra - UN Under Secretary-General and High Representative, UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries & Small Island Developing States (UN OHRLLS)

Dr. Nessi Ndiva-Hill - Professor, Essex County Community College

Dr. Karen J. Smith - Chair of Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Moderator - Ms. Motoko Sugiyama

As the Fifth Forum on the Eradication of Poverty marked its debut the day before the United State's national holiday, Independence

Day, a growing audience of men and women filled the room. This side event of the AMR/HLG of ECOSOC co-sponsored by NGO Branch of UN DESA, UN OHRLLS, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mozambique to the UN and Co-sponsored and Organized by WFPW International and USA welcomed delegates into the large Diplomat Ballroom with its theme "Promoting Productive Capacity, Employment and Decent work to Eradicate Poverty for Achieving the MDGs." This year's theme for AMR of HLS in Substantive Session of ECOSOC was "Promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)."

Because WFPWPI has been striving to eradicate poverty and achieve the MDGs through its international service projects in over 50 developing countries, the theme of the forum was aligned with the theme of the AMR exactly to support the AMR.

Six accomplished panelists provided insightful and meaningful perspectives on eradication of poverty. Taking in the excited audience, Dr. Lakshmi Puri, Ms. Azita Berar,

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H.E. Mr. Antonio Gumende, Mr. Cheick Side Diarra, Dr. Nessi Ndiva-Hill, and Dr. Karen J. Smith, delivered topics on the involvement of UN Women, the UN International Labour Organization, the government, Civil Society and NGOs, as well as perspectives from UN OHRLLS. Each panelist contributed their unique understanding of the situation through presentations that included step by step practical solutions and examples of programs that illustrate positive impactful change.

Kicking off the three hour event, **Prof. Yeon Ah Choi**, Vice President of WFPW International, introduced the main theme, hot topics on issues such as young people's unemployment, solutions and areas of development. Building global peace and eradicating poverty are two main areas in which WFPWPI is trying to focus their energy and support. She reminded the audience that developed and developing countries need to work hand in hand as one family.



**Ms. Azita Awad** delivered statistics and other visuals from the ILO that show young people worldwide are struggling to find

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## Statement of Purpose

The Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI) supports a network of National WFWPI Chapters worldwide.

WFWPI 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, WFWPI 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.**

WFWPI International is a non-profit, non-governmental international organization in General Consultative Status of ECOSOC and DPI Associates with the United Nations

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## At the UN in New York...

### Reports of NGO Briefings

## New Voices: Media Freedom Helping to Transform Societies

In Commemoration of Press Freedom Day 2012

May 3, 2012 - ECOSOC Chamber (NLB), UN New York

*By Merly Barrete-Barlaan*

DPI NGO Relations in cooperation with UNESCO held a Briefing in commemoration of Press Freedom Day 2012 on the theme: "New Voices: Media Freedom Helping to Transform Societies". The program honored journalists lost in the line of action and discussed the burgeoning digital advances of media coverage.

World Press Freedom Day (WPDF) was jointly established in 1991 by UNESCO and the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI), during a conference in Windhoek, Namibia. The conference produced the Windhoek Declaration, which emphasized that press freedom and citizens' right to information is a fundamental human right. For

this privilege to be fully enjoyed, governments must "provide the constitutional guarantees necessary for press freedom" and for emergence of a pluralistic press. In 1991 this appeal was specifically aimed at the developing African press. Since then, the Declaration has stood as a beacon for press freedom everywhere.

Mr. Maher Nasser, Acting Head, DPI moderated the opening session. The UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, delivered opening remarks, asking for a moment of silence to pay respect to the brave individuals killed or imprisoned while covering stories. He stated that "over the past year and a half of transformation across the Middle East and North Africa, social media, mobile telephones

**Media Freedom, contd. on pg. 12**

## Peacekeeping as a Global Partnership

In Observance of the International Day of UN Peacekeepers

May 24, 2012 - Salvation Army, New York City

*By Cynthia Shibuya*

Speakers: Mr. Oliver Ulrich: Head, Partnership Team, Dept. of Peacekeeping Operations; Mr. Kieran Dwyer: Chief of the Public Affairs Section, Dept. of Peacekeeping Operations; Ms. Surendrini Wijeyaratne: Humanitarian Policy Advisor, Oxfam;

Ms. Gail Sainte, Public Information Officer and moderator, greeted everyone and gave thanks and honor to UN peacekeepers. A moving video was shown of interviews with peacekeepers sharing experiences rebuilding post-conflict countries. The UN has no standing army or police force. It relies on countries to contribute military and police personnel for peacekeeping. The UN peacekeepers are

members of their own countries first, and second work with the UN. They wear their own countries' uniforms and are identified as UN peacekeepers by a UN blue helmet or beret and a badge, bringing their own unique experiences and cultural backgrounds. They provide security and peace building support to countries torn by conflict make the difficult transition to peace. There are currently seventeen UN peace operations on four continents.

Kieran Dwyer explained the purpose of Peacekeeping Operations. 116 countries now contribute soldiers totaling 200,000 personnel at all times. Many are civilians. Stabilizing a country is the main goal. Countries struggle to

**Peacekeeping, contd. on pg. 10**

## DPI/NGO Annual Town Hall Meeting

June 28, 2012 - UNHQ, New York

*By Lowie Partosa, WFWPI Intern*

The purpose of the final meeting of the 2011-2012 season is to reflect on achievements and needed improvements and next steps after a year of planning and activities. As Maria Luisa Chavez Chief, NGO Relations, Department of Public Information (DPI), one of the moderators of the event said, "Feedback is helpful and very important in helping NGOs move forward. It was disappointing that out of 3000 NGO members; only 200 participated in this opportunity to give feedback about activities and services."

### Launching New Website

A new website was launched to serve NGOs: <http://outreach.un.org/ngorelations/>. Through this new website, DPI NGO Relations ensures

it will be easier to access information. On the homepage of the website, a Haitian girl holding earth in her hand was chosen to symbolize hope. It is hope that "through the new website, not just the UN can communicate to NGOs, but communication among NGOs, locally and worldwide. The main page of the website provides a definition of NGO, history of NGOs working with the UN and information about many NGOs. The website will serve as an intergenerational contact where senior focused NGOs can look up activities the youth NGOs are initiating and vice versa. The new website serves as an instrument for coordination from different NGO groups. Also, one of the important components of this new website is

**Town Hall Meeting, continued on pg. 10**

## Training Workshop on Rural Girls, Women & Climate Change

April 19, 2012 - UN Church Center, New York

By *Jeanne Carroll*

The NGO Committee on the Status of Women held a training workshop on Rural Girls, Women and Climate Change. Speakers included: Ana Marie L. Hernando, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the UN; Natalia Kostus, Co-Chair Young Professionals Committee, NGO/CSW/NY; Hannah Strohmeier, Programme Specialist, United Nations Development Program; Ann Braudis, Co-Chair, NGO Committee on Sustainable Development; Angeline Martyn, Director of Communications and Marketing, Friends of UNFPA.

The information was presented clearly and provided a significant education for those in

attendance. Climate change has a particularly devastating effect on the wellbeing of rural women. Rural women do not have access to technology therefore they do not have advanced warning regarding the estimated time, duration and intensity of a storm, making it impossible to prepare adequately. Many of the world's poorest women have cultural or social restrictions on physical activity outside the home. In addition they have limited access to resources and land rights. Rural women may not be educated about simple survival skills, making it difficult to protect and care for their family during emergency circumstances. Finally, poor nutrition, health and literacy results in a disproportionate number of fatalities

for rural women when compared to rural men. There is also the issue of violence against women in the aftermath of natural disasters.

The meeting segued to expectation regarding the upcoming Rio +20 which focuses on sustainable development, of which climate change is a sub-division. The mood of the group at the conclusion was hopeful. Educational events sponsored by NGO/CSW and other NGOs and civil society regarding the issue of climate change and its impact on rural women raises the awareness of society. Building awareness leads participants to encourage and advocate for policies, programs and services that help mitigate the detrimental impact of climate change on rural girls and women.



## Healthy Oceans: Charting a New Course

Role of Regional Organizations and Institutions ~ April 26, 2012 - UNHQ, New York

By *Merly Barrete-Barlaan*

Best-selling authors, marine scientists, fishermen and ocean explorers joined together at the event to galvanize global support for action on oceans at the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development. The event was hosted by the UN Department of Public Information, and co-sponsored by Pew Environment Group and TARA Expeditions.

The speakers were: Julian Barbieri, UNESCO, Inter-governmental Oceanographic Commission, Carrie Brownstein, Seafood Quality Standards Coordinator, Whole Foods Market, Fabien Cousteau, Filmmaker and Oceanographic Explorer, Paul Greenberg, Author of "Four Fish: The Future of the Last Wild Food", Mark Kurlansky, Author of "Cod" and "A World Without Fish", Ray Menell, Fisherman.

Lisa Speer, Director, International Oceans Program, National Resources Defense Council

moderated the panel. The panel engaged in an informative conversation about why strong action at Rio+20 is needed and discussed potential solutions and what is at stake if governments, business and the world community do not manage marine habitats more sustainably. Ms. Speer first asked each speaker to identify emerging important issues to address at Rio+20. According to Mr. Greenberg, the biggest issue is prevalence of illegal fishing in the high seas, such as pirate fishing – which is catching the wealth of the world and stealing it. In Mr. Mennel's view, the most critical issue is the shortage of fish along the coasts. Species have disappeared and fishing quality has declined.

Mr. Kurlansky stated that over a decade ago, fishermen were promised fisheries would be regulated; so far the problems have gotten worse. He suggested looking at the broader ecosystem as it is in crisis. If species disappear,

the ecosystem will reach a point where marine life will no longer be viable. As the natural order of the planet unravels, humanity does not have endless time to fix it. Ms. Brownstein explained her work to develop standards for Whole Foods Market stores such as sourcing policies that guide how they buy and sell fish. She stressed that the goal is examining fisheries and taking responsibility for the marketplace. The idea is to create a model for a sustainable seafood industry.

Mr. Barbieri presented a perspective from the IOC about the serious emerging issue of ocean acidification. As CO2 emissions increase, the ocean's chemistry becomes more acidic through sequestration of atmospheric carbon. This has a huge impact on ecosystems, on specific habitat and the coral reefs. This also has significant economic and social costs. He mentioned the proposal in the outcome

**Healthy Oceans, contd. on pg. 12**

## UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)

June 13-22, 2012 - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

By *Ezzat Ferabolli and Merly Barlaan*

The 3rd meeting of its Preparatory Committee met prior, from June 13 to 15, 2012. Rio+20 brought Heads of State and Government to Brazil to appraise implementation progress toward agreements made at the landmark 1992 UN Conference on the Environment and Development in Rio and gaps in progress. WFWPI delegation was headed by Ms. Ezzat Ferabolli, Regional Vice President for Latin America and President of WFWP Brazil.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, on his ceremonial opening during the Second Plenary Meeting, stated "Our efforts have not lived up to the nature of the challenge. The

old model for economic development and social advancement is broken. Rio+20 gives us a unique chance to set it right by creating a new model. To the thousands of civil society representatives, we absolutely need your partnership. I have made sustainability my priority. We have the responsibility to act in common to set aside national interests for the global public good and betterment of all".

WFWP representatives participated in various meetings and parallel events, however, for WFWP delegates, the highlight of the conference was the meeting organized by UN Women which advocated for renewed commitment to progress in implementing international conventions, a call for the effective

implementation of previous agreements, strengthened political commitment to sustainable development, and fostering of strategic partnerships for gender equality. On June 19, 2012, the Women Leaders' Forum on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment for Sustainable Development: The Future Women Want took place. Hundreds of representatives from government, heads of UN agencies, civil society and the private sector made their voices heard at a full-day forum organized by UN Women in collaboration with the Government of Brazil and other partners. The panel highlighted strategies and programmes that foster gender

**Rio+20 contd. on pg. 10**

## At the UN in Vienna ...

### Transnational Crime Threatens Millenium Development Goals

April 23-26, 2012 - Vienna, Austria

By Elisabeth Riedl

Speakers at the 21st session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) acknowledged that transnational organized crime is one of the main challenges of the twenty-first century and a threat to sustainable development and the rule of law. The Commission was chaired by **Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol of Thailand** and attended by over 800 people, including 116 States, and 43 NGOs, including WFWPI representatives Elisabeth Riedl, Renate Amesbauer, Maria Riehl and Irmgard Maentler.



A message from the President of the General Assembly was read by the Chef de Cabinet, Mr. Mutlaq Al-Qahtani. It specified that drugs and crime are an impediment to the social and economic development of countries. "When combined, these crimes generate enormous profits every year: not in the millions, not in the billions, but in the trillions of dollars," he said. The President of the Economic and Social Council, Miloš Koterec, added the dimension of violence against migrants to the larger context, which was the theme of a special debate to take place during the Commission.

Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of UNODC, stated that as the international community moves closer to 2015 and takes stock of the MDGs, there is growing recognition that transnational threats are a major hindrance to achieving the Goals. Weak, fragile countries are particularly vulnerable to the effects of transnational organized crime. Countries devastated by war or making the transition to democracy are often preyed upon by criminals. "As a result, organized crime flourishes, successes in development are reversed, and opportunities for social and economic advancement are lost," said Mr. Fedotov. Thus, he continued, anti-crime activities must be integrated into the sustainable development agenda, along with programmes of action for rule of law, which form the foundation for human rights.

As the CCPCJ continued, the heads of two UN bodies pledged to work jointly to stamp out sex tourism and human trafficking, especially child trafficking. Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of UNODC and Taleb Rifai, Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) called for concerted global action at every level of society. Mr. Rifai said, "We are here to reiterate the tourism sector's commitment to combating human trafficking, an unacceptable affront to human rights and dignity, and to set out clear steps



for stronger cooperation in fighting one of the most dreadful crimes of our time." The tourism sector can and should play a vital role in preventing human trafficking linked to tourism, including sexual exploitation. Codes of conduct for tourism companies were developed based on the World Trade Organization (WTO) Global Code of Ethics for Tourism approved by the General Assembly in 2001. Laws have been enacted that allow for prosecution of tourists in their homeland for those who engage in sexual conduct with children. UNODC is implementing Project Childhood, a four year Australia funded initiative to combat sexual exploitation of children in four Southeast Asian countries: Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand and Viet Nam. Hotel companies are conducting awareness raising campaigns and providing vocational training for trafficked persons.

The Crime Commission ended with a call for practical action against organized crime. Executive Director Fedotov stressed the need for a comprehensive and coordinated approach to protect human rights of migrant workers and their families. "The UN and UNODC are uniquely positioned to help promote this coordination and cooperation."



## Reports from Special Events continued...

### Reports from the Alliance of NGO on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Alliance)

General Assembly's Thematic Debate on "Drug and Crime Prevention" ~ June 26, 2012 - UNHQ

Special Event of ECOSOC High Level Segment ~ July 9, 2012 - UN HQ

By Dr. Karen J. Smith

#### General Assembly's Thematic Debate

**June 26, 2012** was International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the launch of the UN Drug Report and the day selected for the General Assembly's thematic debate on Drugs and Crime as a Threat to Development. The Alliance of NY and Vienna drafted a joint statement for the debate. The statement by the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs (VNGOC) can be downloaded from their site: <http://www.vngoc.org>.

Dr. Smith, Chair of the Alliance, NY was asked to make her statement very brief—one minute! With little to no time left for NGO contributions, Dr. Smith condensed the Alliance statement down to the key action points. The link to her intervention from UN WebTV: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2KGOgGJx4hM>

The following is an overview of the debate excerpted from notes by Michel Perron, Chair of VNGOC:

The June 26th opening panel was attended by President of GA (PGA), Secretary General

Ban Ki-moon and Mr. Yuri Fedotov, Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. Panelists spoke then chairs encouraged interactive dialogue with Member States (MS). NGOs were to be called once all MS had spoken. The panelists went over time on the morning panel and the list of MS extended beyond the morning session. The structure of the event severely limited interactivity since most simply made statements rather than asking questions of the panel.

From an NGO perspective the Alliance's Forum@Four and the VNGOC's informal civil society hearings provide essential non-formal settings that create opportunities for genuinely interactive dialogues.

Six NGO statements were finally admitted at the very end of the session. The floor was first given to a Ugandan youth, sponsored by UNODC and part of their youth network. Michel Perron, Chair of VNGOC had prepared a 3-4 minute statement. With the closing ceremony about to start, Mr. Fedotov, session moderator asked the GA President to allow a few minutes for NGOs to speak. He agreed saying, "I like NGOs."

#### Special Event of ECOSOC 2012 High Level Segment on Accountability, Transparency and Sustainable Development: Turning Challenges into Opportunities

**July 9, 2012.** The event took place from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm with the closing session featuring the Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon from 3:00 to 3:30 pm in the ECOSOC Chamber. The objectives of the High-Level Segment Event were: to highlight costs incurred by lack of accountability and transparency and corruption on sustainable development; and to exchange views on innovative approaches and partnerships in combating corruption. The event could promote a renewed commitment at the highest political level for ratification of or accession to the UN Convention against corruption by countries that have not yet done so, and encourage full participation in the Review Mechanism of the Convention to promote full implementation of its provisions. The event included two interactive dialogues. The first interactive dialogue, "Creating inclusive and cohesive societies: a multidisciplinary approach

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## At the UN in Geneva ...

### Contribution of Families to Peace, Human Development & Prosperity

July 5-6, 2012 - UN HQ and ILO HQ Geneva, Switzerland

By Tim Miller and Carolyn Handschin

This conference was part of a series of European Leadership Conferences. Day 2 was a Side Event of the 20th Human Rights Council. WFWPI, the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), the Fribourg Peace Forum (FPForum) and the Geneva Interfaith Intercultural Alliance (GIIA) were cosponsors. Several government missions to the UN in Geneva supported the event.

**Opening Session**—H.E. Mme. Soline Nyirahabimana, Ambassador of Rwanda to the UN spoke on behalf of Mme Jeannette Kagame, First Lady of Rwanda, Co-founder of the Organisation of African First Ladies against HIV/AIDS. She explained how colonization factored into loss of traditional culture which had maintained respect and order in Rwandan society. This loss resulted in disorder and lack of moral restraint that led to the horror of genocide. The natural order of society with family as central is now protected by the state so families can rebuild and flourish. Representing UPF Europe, Mr. Timothy Miller described the lost awareness of the connection between a good marriage and family life and peace, wellbeing and the prosperity of society in his opening remarks.

#### Family Policy in Modern Western Society – Where do we stand?

Dr. Rudolf Gehring, Chair Christian Party of Austria stressed that a strong country needs strong families. As candidate for the Austrian Presidency, he realized many Austrians, including most young people support this view. He called for recognition of family work as important to society. Mr. Dennis

Ms. Carolyn Handschin-Moser, President WFWPI Europe proposed a new paradigm; “Familiarchy”, where family is the nexus in society; all extended family members cooperate to maintain and enhance all members and contribute to the larger community, creating an intertwined network of families. Expanded, this would be an inclusive system of government where men and women share responsibility like parents who guide and nurture their children, considering elders’ wisdom and including all citizens. Mr. Josef Gundacker, Familienforum Oesterreich stated scientific studies of early child development showing the role of parents in child development. The parent-child relationship forms the family.

#### Families, Human Development and Good Governance: What can we learn from other Cultures and Continents?

Dr. Wim van Eekelen (Former Dutch Defense Minister) chaired the session, introducing HE Maurice Peter Kagimu Kiwanuka, Ambassador of Uganda to the UN, Geneva. The Ambassador follows the Biblical definition of family and feels human rights are stretched too far in modern trends, including gay couples adopting children. Family stability and background are important in a marriage partner. It is good to plant God in the heart of our children. Dr. Jesus Domingo, Minister & Consul General, Philippines Mission Geneva explained that family is the primary unit of good governance. Family plays a major role in economy and business start up. So the Philippine government offers entrepreneur training for families that includes development of virtue. Dr. Katrien Beekman, Director, Principles and Values Dept., Intl Federation

relationships and learn to relate through our family. Strong families bring peace, security and love. Family breakdown, domestic violence, honour killing, forced marriage are not part of true religion and can end through education and parental love. Mr. Jack Corley, President, UPF, UK emphasized self-restraint through balanced education. The key contribution of religion is to bring ones’ body under dominion of one’s good mind. This can resolve issues of governance; prevent conflict, abuse, pollution and corruption. The fundamental spiritual principle and ethical imperative is living for the sake of others, which leads to peace.

Special Session of the Model UN (Youth) Interreligious Council on The Contribution of Families to the Realization of the Millennium Development Goal MDG #3, on Gender Equality.

Youth representatives of diverse faiths attended the 8th session of the Model UN Interreligious Council. President of Council, Hi-Seung D’Alberti opened the session. Youth delegates, Ambassadors of their faiths to the Council, read their statements:

**Protestantism**—Lenka Spycher works in Thailand and Nepal with Buddhist and Hindu colleagues. She experienced Buddhist compassion and a Hindu father who due to his faith wanted his daughters to attend school along with his sons, valuing education and equal opportunities for girls.

**Hinduism**—Karthik Ragavan expressed that if we care for women, the family can reach its highest potential. Many MDGs touch this issue. Take the shortcomings of others as an occasion to expand love and compassion. Guide each family to share charity to the needy.

**Islam**—Wesam el Husseiny quoted Prophet Mohammed PBH regarding treating parents gently and respectfully and with care. Paradise is at the mother’s feet, so show kindness to her first. It falls to family to teach children to respect others.

**JC Latter Day Saints**—Jessica Lees emphasized gender equality and empowering women. Children are taught by word and example. When parents work as partners, gender equality is learned.

**Unificationism**—Teresa Stacey stated gender equality is the basis for achieving many MDGs. Unificationism views God as male and female. Values are learned within the family. Husbands need to value their wife’s contribution. Women are a vital resource and should receive education and pursue careers. Equality in families leads to equality in the world.

**Can the World Faiths provide a pattern and incentive for a Culture of Peace rooted in Family Ethics?** Opening remarks were from Dr. Kyriaki Topidi, Chair of Comparative Law and Religion, University of Lucerne.

**Judaism**—Rabbi Garai, Chief Rabbi, Communauté Israélite de Genève - The two Jewish approaches are: Orthodox which



Stoica, Chair of Board, Healthy Relationships California and International presented studies showing children in intact families fare better in education, mental and physical health, resistance to gangs and crime, improved lifetime earnings prospects and likelihood to get and stay married. Preventative human relationship education is very cost effective compared with crisis counselling. These skills start in the family and can grow to impact world peace.

Red Cross/Crescent Societies said we owe our children a life free from violence and fear and full of love and care. Parents are role models for children. Children need guidance to take responsibility and create support networks.

Dr. Imam Abdul Sajid, Chair, Dialogue of Cultures in Europe, Deputy Chair, Religions for Peace- Europe stated that peace in your own heart leads to peace at subsequent levels; family, society etc. We become civilized through

**Families & Peace, contd. on pg. 12**

# 20th Anniversary of WFWP International and the Global Women's Peace Network (GWPN) Assembly

March 26-27, 2012 - Boryeong City, South Korea

By Motoko Sugiyama

WFWPI's milestone event celebrating its 20th Anniversary was held at Muchangpo Beach Palace Resort in Boryeong City, Chung Nam, South Korea. The venue was at the beautiful seaside on the west coast of South Korea. Over 600 participants from around the world enjoyed the fresh ocean breeze during the



event. The 20th Anniversary Commemorative Program was held in the morning and the GWPN Assembly in the afternoon.

## 20th Anniversary Commemorative Program

After opening remarks by Prof. Lan Young Moon Park, International President and welcoming remarks by Ms. Tetusko Kuboki, President of WFWP Japan and Ms. Angelika Selle, President of WFWP USA, there was time to recognize the hard work of WFWP national chapters and members during the past twenty years (since 1992) by founder, **Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon**. Outstanding chapter awards were presented to Japan, Korea and the UN Office. The award for excellence was presented to all regional representatives.



Rev. Hyung Jin Moon, Chairman of Universal Peace Federation and son of the founder introduced Dr. Moon prior to the **Founder's Address**. In her address, Dr. Moon expressed her deep gratitude and admiration to WFWP members by saying, "as can be seen, from the founding of WFWP to attainment of the highest status as an NGO in Consultative Status with UN ECOSOC, our members have never lost heart and have pioneered the path of women's peace in silence with an unchanging heart. Therefore, I would like to give a big round of applause to express my infinite gratitude and love to them, and also for the women leaders who have never failed to give us their encouragement and participation."

She concluded with great encouragement for further accomplishment of WFWP by stating, "21st century women should play a major role in world history by serving as one of the wheels of the engine pulling forward the construction of a peaceful world, together with men. Going beyond the century of power and technology, women will be the central axis in building the century of love and the peace culture. Their role will be more important than before. We should strengthen our network with global women leaders to expand the worldwide women's peace movement and dedicate ourselves with the utmost conviction."

## Opening Session of the GWPN Assembly

Prof. Lan Young Moon Park, International President introduced the GWPN as the new project of WFWP International to develop further networking of global women leaders by cooperating with other women's organizations to achieve our common goals.



Ms. Motoko Sugiyama, International VP in charge of UN Relations introduced keynote speaker, **Mr. Andrei Abramov, Chief of NGO Branch of UN DESA**. Mr. Abramov spoke on the topic "**Global Peace, the United Nations and the Role of Women**". He offered warm congratulatory words, "My most sincere congratulations go to all dedicated women and men of the Federation who have been working so hard in the past 20 years on many projects carried out by the Federation to empower women, improve their access to health and education, bring about reconciliation and peace and promote sustainable development." He presented an informative address on how Resolution 1325 (2000) of the UN Security Council on women, peace and security was able to be adopted.

Resolution 1325 recognizes that women and children are most affected by conflict and acknowledges the critical role women can play in preventing and resolving conflicts and in building peace and urges member states to include more women at all levels of decision making and field operations related to conflict resolution. The resolution not only calls for action within the UN but also urges all parties involved in conflict resolution to adopt a gender-conscious approach during disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. The policy

statement stresses the responsibility of all actors to protect women from gender-based violence, especially rape and to prosecute those guilty of perpetrating such crimes. He also pointed out the accomplishments in gender awareness, women and governance, gender-action work plans, gender mainstreaming, gender advisers, enforcement of codes of conduct, and training and civil society in the past ten years since the adoption.

He stated "Our experience in implementing the Security Council's Resolutions on women, peace and security, at MDG+10 in 2010, at High-level Meetings on youth, HIV/AIDS, Non-Communicable Diseases and Durban Review Conferences proves time and again that a partnership with NGOs is no longer an option but a necessity. The problems facing the world today are so large and complex that no single nation can solve them in isolation; nor should they be the exclusive domain of governments. It is a task to which we must all contribute, including NGOs." His final message was "There can be no peace without gender equality and no sustainable people-centered development without both peace and equality. Without equal and fair participation of women in peace we will never achieve the vision of the world free from the scourge of war, poverty and gender discrimination outlined in 1945 by the Founding Fathers and Mothers of the United Nations Charter." (Complete text of Mr. Abramov's speech at <http://www.wfwp.org>)

Two panel sessions were held on the themes, Women's Leadership in the 21st Century and Unification of the Korean Peninsula and World Peace following the opening session.

In conclusion the GWPN Inaugural Statement was announced by Ms. Susan Kone, IVP WFWP Africa and Ms. Seon Soon Hong, VP, WFWP Korea. The celebration banquet was held in the evening and the Korean branch leader's group performed a very dynamic and powerful "Nanta- Korean drum dance." Also an impressive accordion performance and solo were presented.



The celebration continued on March 27 with a day of sightseeing to historic Buyeo city, the capital of the Baekje Kingdom in ancient Korea. It was a wonderful grand finale. The beautiful and memorable events of the WFWPI 20th Anniversary gave us a warm, rewarding feeling and encouragement to advance forward to achieve our noble goal and mission of creating one peaceful human family under God.



# 16th Annual Women's Conference for Peace in the Middle East Middle Eastern Women's Voices at Human Rights Council 20th Session

June 27, 2012 - UNHQ Geneva, Switzerland

By Carolyn Handschin and Zoe Bennet

WFWPI held two side events during the 20th Session of the HRC. The 16th Annual Women's Conference on Peace in the Middle East (MEW) dedicated the first day of the three day conference to support the work of the HRC. Nearly 200 participants, the majority women, many under thirty, represented over 45 countries including many in the Middle East and North Africa. This group joined experts from UN bodies (UNICEF, UNRWA Palestine, OHCHR (Human Rights), OHCR (Refugees), Red Cross, International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Labor Organization (ILO), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC) Lebanon and UNESCO) and government missions based in Geneva to pool their best ideas and practices on the theme, Children affected by conflict and disaster: Prevention, protection, healing and empowerment.

## **Protecting children during conflict and tragedy: the roles of family, community, government and the United Nations.**

Deputy Director of the UN Office for WFWPI, Ms. Carolyn Handschin, opened the session with the history of the MEW conferences. She introduced session chair, Ms. Saana M.M. Qormosh, UN Relief Works Agency (UNRWA).



Speakers included Mr. Patrick McCormick, UNICEF Spokesperson in Emergency situations since 1994. Having worked with child soldiers in several countries, Mr. McCormick described the tragedy of this vulnerable group, how it occurs and ways to prevent it. Sadly, he explained that some young boys join these gangs to escape difficult family situations. Dr. Josi Salem-Pickartz, Co-Director, Al Himaya Foundation for Trauma Recovery, Growth and Resilience, Jordan and representative for Make Mothers Matter (MMM) also pointed to the role of family, especially mothers in protecting, healing and changing destructive patterns.

Dr. Ghada Al-Jadba, UN Relief Works Agency (UNRWA) Gaza, Palestine reported on the situation in Gaza. "We couldn't save our past or present". Speaking of the children, she said, "let us save our future". Many UNRWA programs promotes non-violence; domestic

violence awareness, trauma recovery through the arts and various women-supporting programs. Ms. Najjar Reem of UNICEF Jordan remarked that Gaza is one example from the region, there are many. She noted several programs successfully supporting raising children in such a difficult environment.

Mrs. Amal Ibrahim, English Literature teacher, Coordinator, Beirut Evangelical School, dealt with daily trauma of children in a society rife with sectarian violence. She explained realistic counter measures she implements in her classroom to diffuse aggressions.

A lively discussion ensued including questions about reintegration and healing for child soldiers. The UNICEF spokesperson described details of this tragedy, adding that many cannot escape their past. A participant told of a child soldier in Nigeria who inspires others with his story of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. Participants shared best practices from women taking leadership to protect children, and prioritize education and community building over militarization. An activist from Egypt summarized, concerning the Middle East, "Our strength is our voices, in unison!"

## **Empowering young women for peacebuilding and conflict prevention.**

The 2nd side event of the HRC organized by WFWPI attracted over 170 people. Carolyn Handschin, session chair, remarked that the theme is a central pillar of many WFWPI global programs. Confidence building in leadership capacities at an early age for girls, learned already at home, encourages a life of responsible citizenship and a good next generation of family.



The first presenter, WFWPI President, Professor Lan Young Moon described the work of WFWPI and women as bridge builders. The creation of the Global Women's Peace Network is a platform to facilitate an increase of women leaders in the world, a place to create solidarity and strategy. "Now is the right time for women to influence the world." The best UN programs will not bring our desired peace unless the capacity to care beyond barriers, as a mother can do, can be generated. Mrs. Kawther Al Jouan, prominent women's rights advocate from Kuwait encouraged all to learn from the younger generation, as she has discovered in

her relationship with her son. "The burden of peacebuilding is on all of us". Sometimes we must, "close our mouths and open our minds."

The room was at capacity when HRC President, HE Laura Dupuy Lasserre arrived. Promising to join the meeting she described as "very important" once she had opened the afternoon session of the HRC, she addressed the participants. "During the last decades, Arab women leaders have played a crucial role in demanding a genuine change to implementation of international human rights standards on the ground. "Women and especially young women have played a very leading role in recent events and they need to be guaranteed continued opportunities to decide the future of their countries. Eager to speak to this group of women from the MENA region and explain the mechanisms of the HRC created to protect and support women's rights and empowerment, HE Lasserre stayed longer than expected.

The fourth speaker, Dr. Katrien Beeckmann, Head of the Principles and Values Department of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, has been developing programs for youth empowerment over years. She specified that education is one of three pillars of the Federation. Values-based skills should be taught in the family first. As a mother of a small daughter, she is amazed at the power of relationships within families to influence lives.

Ms. Sandy Michael Ayas presented a thoughtful PowerPoint, Empowering Young Women for Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention: Syrian Crisis, relying on first-hand information about the current situation. She explained her targets: Strengthening collaboration with other peace-building actors, strengthening a base for sustainability of women's rights and empowerment, strengthening collaboration with other peacebuilding actors.

The World Organization of Women (WOW) UN Representative and intern, Mylene Jessia Lees provided insights into young women's problems in the Middle East as they aspire to influence the world around them. She expressed appreciation for the chance to give voice at the conference as a young woman discovering empowerment through her work at the UN.

Finally, Dr. Nurit Hirschfeld-Skupinsky, professor at a university in Israel and WFWP Israel president, spoke eloquently, circling back to the common thread throughout the messages, the role of love, sometimes referred to as "nurturing" or "healing", it is the critical element that is not easily passed on through UN mechanisms. It has often been asserted by individuals engaged at the UN, but not institutionalized. Yet it is empathy, self-sacrifice and living a life of responsible citizenship learned in the context of parental love and natural family support that assures empowerment and human rights a place in the culture of peace.



### Women's Federation for World Peace International

#### Interview with Vice President and Director of UN Office

By Dr. Karen Judd Smith,  
UN Representative of WFWP International

The following is an interview with Mrs. Motoko Sugiyama, Vice President and Director of UN Office on August 24th, 2012. This interview uncovers the three main ways that WFWP contributes to the work and global mission of the United Nations. Also, as Mrs. Sugiyama explains her aspirations for WFWP in the coming decade, she points out the critical area of work that she sees WFWP's leaders will need to focus on so that WFWP can build on its notable accomplishments to become an even more influential international organization.



**Interviewer:** Much of what WFWP is, grew out of the efforts of many, but especially of the Japanese WFWP's Overseas Service Projects. So as we celebrate the first 20 years of WFWP, it is good to understand and celebrate some of the vision and focus that guided the early growth and development of WFWP Japan.

Mrs. Sugiyama, what inspired and motivated you, what did you envision for WFWP as you took up the responsibility as WFWP Japan's President in its early days?

**Sugiyama:** When founders—Rev. and Mrs. Moon—inaugurated WFWP and asked me to be the president of WFWP Japan, my main desire was to make very good women's organization in Japan. Now the larger movement already had educational and advocacy components, but what I felt could contribute the most to help show the substance of the Principles that guided members was a service organization.

In Asia there was a fore-runner organization which was called the Women's Federation for Peace in Asia. That had started in Japan six years prior. Based on my experiences with that I engaged in when I went to the Middle East to help prepare for Mrs. Moon's inaugural speech there first and as well as the following trip of "fact-finding" including North African countries by myself, I could see the importance and potential of developing a solid, strong, social Women's organization in Japan.

**Interviewer:** Where in the Middle East were you in particular?

**Sugiyama:** I went to Israel, Egypt, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, Cyprus and Yemen.

**Interviewer:** This was in 19...

**Sugiyama:** Between 1993-94. When I was there I saw the huge misery resulting from civil war. And it was especially miserable for women and children. Many schools were destroyed. Women lost husbands and sons and they had no jobs. They were on the street.

So because of the spirit of that threads our Federation, I thought very much about what I could do to optimally utilize the capacity of an enormous network of women in Japan. That is how I started to think about WFWP and to organize its projects.

Then in 1994, the founders asked Japanese women to go to the 160 nations to start the WFWP chapter there. When many of these women went to "their" mission countries, they discovered the same situation as I had seen. So it was very natural for us to begin to work to address these situations.

**Interviewer:** So based on their commitment to "do something to help" you began to systematize the service projects and support system...

**Sugiyama:** Yes. Even after my trip to the Middle East and North African Countries I had started a service project. I had decided to focus on education to help children or women. Education is a powerful capacity-builder enabling people to do more with their own life—be more self-sufficient, contribute to the future of their country, and better help themselves and their families. By focusing on education, we not only contribute to addressing current difficulties but also to the future of the country. So I already had pulled together some funds to support different schools in the area that I visited. So, you could say that I had initiated a pilot project for WFWP Japan and built on that.

Of course, for WFWP Japan as a whole, I realized we would have to make a good system. So in the Japanese headquarters, we created a Committee for Overseas Service Projects. Then through that committee we made the guidelines for developing proposals. What was important in this was that it be proposals for projects that they both wanted to do and could do, because in the end, it is they have to do the work in their mission country.

So they had to consider what they could do of course grounded in what they discovered during their first fact-finding visit to their country. Their own capacity and confidence was very important. Our approach was grassroots. And as such, in reality, the women were also building their capacity as grassroots NGO leaders. Of course we didn't have any government funding, so we had to come up with the funds too. But this we knew we could do.

So for the projects in the 160 nations, we made kind of "sisterhood relationships" within our 47 prefectures for support. Within each prefecture HQ, there were also city branches and these were the basis of the support system. Each of the 160 countries had a team of ten women. Each team had a team leader or Project Director.

WFWP Japan had other activities as well as the overseas projects, the main domestic project dealt with education and so we had a Committee on the Reconstruction of Education. That work is focused on the moral education of young people. We had many seminar and local campaigns in different prefectures dealing with pornography and promiscuity, for example. The other was a Committee to Support Foreign Women Student in Japan. That provide the scholarship for women students. Then in 1994, we started "Sisterhood Ceremonies." by the advocacy of the founders. First these were reconciliation ceremonies between Korean and Japanese women and then we focused on Sisterhood ceremonies between Japan and USA in 1995-1996, and the "Bridge of Peace" evolved out of these.

The Bridge of Peace later expanded it to France, England, most of the European countries, the Middle East and more. It has expanded all over the world eventually.

**Interviewer:** So Japan had quite a breadth and depth of activity. You must have been very busy!

**Sugiyama:** When we started sisterhood ceremony between Japan and USA we had a membership of 20,000.

**Interviewer:** 20,000 in Japan alone?

**Sugiyama:** Yes.

**Interviewer:** Can you explain a little more about the ceremonies themselves, and then also a little about why WFWP sought to be connected with the United Nations.

**Sugiyama:** Well, the Sisterhood Ceremonies /Bridge of Peace are one of our peace building efforts focused on overcoming the resentments that linger between enemies.

Women of both sides cross the bridge, symbolic of crossing over from being enemies to meet as sister who want to put the animosity behind them and build a new future together. The Bridge of Peace serves to build trust and confidence. It deals with some of the intangibles that are an important part of the peace building process.

So, peace-building, moral education and poverty eradication are three important areas of concern of WFWP. Actually, all these are inter-connected. Without peace, you cannot eradicate poverty. If you are poor, and don't have basic education, it is difficult to escape poverty. Putting it simply, I think these goals are aligned with United Nations goals.

Now I think we all do know generally that United Nations is pursuing a peaceful world and is it pretty much still the main organization that provides ways for people to get together at the global level. As we better understood how the United Nations, and ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council) in particular is interested in partnering with civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) then it just made sense for WFWP to work together with United Nations where we could.

So by the time we applied for NGO in general consultative status with UN ECOSOC



in 1997, we already had many women hard at work in many nations around the world.

**Interviewer:** How many countries was WFWP in at that time you applied for consultative status?

**Sugiyama:** Around that tie, we had a WFWP presence in about 110 countries.

**Interviewer:** When an organization actually gets consultative status, what does that enable them to do at the international level that they could not otherwise do?

**Sugiyama:** The United Nations enables those with consultative status to participate in UN convened international conferences, to learn what is going on at the global level, what the hot issue are, to network with other UN affiliated NGOs, and therefore we have the opportunity to discover ways we can work together for the common good.

We are also able to sponsor conferences or meetings together with UN or with other NGOs on the UN agendas, common concerns or even on innovative approaches. All these are a significant benefit to NGOs wishing to contribute at the international level. Of course working together with United Nations also simply means that we are not alone, we are not isolated and this all helps us feel like we are part of the global family that we are striving for.

**Interviewer:** At the global level, what is the main thing you wish to influence?

**Sugiyama:** The United Nations is not borderless. Politics is all about titles, borders and status. And often these are the basis for conflict. But NGO can be borderless. What I mean by that is that NGOs can go beyond the national boundaries and focus for specific human issues regardless of political borders.

For instance, our sisterhood ceremonies show that people can go beyond the hatred and resentment and beyond national boundaries. It is not easy to for all nations to unite but it does show some hope that we can work together beyond these national and historical boundaries.

Also through the international service projects, even though they are small, they show we can support and help each other beyond our national boundaries. In other words, we can be family to one another. So we are advocates of broader issues, such as peace-building, poverty eradication and education.

Also concretely, we can make joint statement with other NGOs from many countries, and different backgrounds, and these can be presented to ECOSOC and to any of our meetings whatever. We can create one voice representing different segments of our human family beyond national boundaries.

Additionally, sometimes the Member States of the UN are not truly representative of all their people's voices. Sometimes nations insist that they don't have any problems but in fact that is not the case. NGOs can be very important for hearing and presenting the voices of those being overlooked, disregarded or abused.

I think the civil society and NGO together, we really giving the kind of advocacy or warning or whatever. Even organization cannot take to kind of initiate but because of the influence of voice by the civil society, we can move to bring as agenda, different agendas I think.

**Interviewer:** It seems that your approach at the UN, in terms of the influence of NGOs and civil society on the governments is often a slow indirect form of influence.

**Sugiyama:** Often this is so. It is important to keep a "never give up" spirit. It is like, you have a concrete wall with one small tiny hole. It might be tiny but you can keep pouring water through that hole and slowly it becomes a big hole and can even end up breaking the wall. I do think many of the efforts of NGOs at the UN are like that. Nothing comes so easily, nothing comes instantly.

**Interviewer:** Today we tend to be a push button society and what you have described is quite different for most people in terms of "seeing change." We tend to want it instantly. So in terms of your understanding of the United Nations, your experience with the United Nations and WFWP, what would you advice to somebody who is interested in working at the global level?

**Sugiyama:** I think there are several ways to go about working at the international level. You can decide to work through governments, you can decide to work with the United Nations itself as staff, or an officer, or if you have clarity about what you want to say, about what you want to see changed, then the best way is as an NGO. NGOs are more free to bring a particular message to the world. If you are working in the government or in the UN, you are expected to maintain the status quo of the organizations (the government, the UN offices) you represent.

**Interviewer:** You are constrained.

**Sugiyama:** Yes, but being a government or a UN staffer has advantages. Perhaps you cannot have a significant position right away but after some years, you can become a respected expert in those organizations. Then you can be included in the decision making part you are interested in and influence that arena.

If you are clear from the beginning about what you want to influence, then you can start as an NGO. But NGOs too have constraints. They are just different ones than governments or the UN itself.

In the end, it is really your choice. But whichever way you choose, you really have to be consistent. You shouldn't give up. You really have to become expert in your field. Then at the end, you will be very much influential person, I think that you will be satisfied what you have done at the end.

**Interviewer:** What one or perhaps two things do you consider significant accomplishments of WFWP?

**Sugiyama:** I am very proud that we could continue the Forum on Eradication of Poverty. We didn't do this every year, but we have done many. And more than the forum alone, I am

very proud that we were able start so many service projects in different countries and we have continued with so many working toward the MDGs substantially with United Nations. That is my first pride.

I really have to give my thanks to the Japanese volunteers who continued until now. They are the foundation of our organization.

**Interviewer:** So maybe just a final wrap up, what do you see for WFWP in the future? What are some of your highest hopes and your insights that indicated critical areas of concern for strengthening WFWP itself?

**Sugiyama:** Even though we have general consultative status—which is great—and also we have a good relationship with the NGO branch of the UN's Department of Economic and Social Affairs, able to partner on many different agendas and many projects, as an organization, we are still not capable of working effectively in the higher decision making arenas. We are not really ready or in a position to be consulted by the Security Council in the same way NGOs such as Oxfam, the Red Cross, or Doctors Without Borders. My dream is that WFWP would become one of them in the future. But to become trusted in that way, we have to advance more, and strengthen our service projects and our message.

**Interviewer:** So what specific milestones would see WFWP would need to achieve for that to happen?

**Sugiyama:** One reality I am aware of is that the women who started projects in different countries, are aging. Their passion and commitment has accomplished amazing things. But unless we transit from this "social entrepreneurial" phase or volunteerism phase to a more professional system that younger people can engage and contribute to further development of the organization.

WFWP is actually facing a critical stage of its health and development. WFWP leadership does need to address this and help transition from relying on the energy and commitment of its entrepreneurial beginnings to sustainable structures or our foundation may fade away. Our leaders who see this clearly need to get together to develop a plan to address this.

This is in a way, a simply fact of the life of organizations that must be addressed, so you might call this a "pre-warning." I am not saying this to be at all discouraging, but simply to point out a decision point, a milestone that needs to be met proactively if WFWP is to become a strong and successful international NGO.

**Interviewer:** Mrs. Sugiyama, you have been at the forefront of WFWP and the worldwide projects that grew out of that amazing group of motivated, devoted and inspired Japanese women. For all that I would like to acknowledge your significant leadership and now to thank you for taking the time with me today.

**Sugiyama:** It was my pleasure. Thank you so much.




## **Town Hall Meeting, contd from pg. 2**

the calendar. The calendar shows events and activities of different groups.

## **Fundraising Events, Annual Election, Suggestions, Questions and Answers**

As part of the town hall meeting, a fundraising event was announced. This fundraising event is important to sustaining outreach and hosting meetings. The annual election was held. The interns and their mentors exchanged words of farewell and appreciation as new members took over.

Finally, the forum was opened to suggestions, questions and answers. The floor was opened up to all the participants in the town hall meeting to discuss the next topic for the conference next season. Many participants suggested the next topic should be women, since they are still out classed in this modern world, not just in developing countries, but also in developed countries. Some said the focus should be children since they are our future and they are powerless. Someone suggested the theme should be “humanity”, since both men and women should have a voice and be represented well. One of the speakers suggested literacy and education should be the next conference theme since everything encapsulates within the sphere of education.


This final meeting was both educational and inspirational. 

## **Peacekeeping, contd from pg. 2**

build a government. Peacekeeping opens secure space for humanitarian action. Committees and offices are needed in the areas of human rights, civil affairs, conflict resolution, gender affairs, child protection, etc. Women are extraordinary activists and play key roles in peace building. The UN has women participating in all areas of protection. Women are needed for reconciliation, human rights, gender affairs, etc.

Surendrini Wijeyaratne described the purpose of Oxfam. Oxfam’s main concern is keeping people safe. Oxfam staff have seen devastation and violence on all levels. Working with UN missions and peacekeeping is effective. Oxfam provides interpreters, community liaisons, food, shelter, water, sanitation, latrines, lighting, locks (to protect women from assault), etc. These are small details with big impact. Oxfam also makes sure people have information to act by creating local protection committees whose role is to monitor human rights and security. Committee members can communicate situations to the proper authorities.

Oliver Ulrich spoke about difficulties in State building. It cannot be done without strong collaboration with UN agencies on the ground. It is not easy to find effective ways to collaborate and realize objectives and create stability. Many member states and agencies within the UN have conflicting objectives and mandates and often disagree on a right course of action. Organizations have different cultures

and behaviors as well. Military and civilian staff and police often differ on approaches for success. The UN is the coordinator of all the players and also promotes inclusion critical for peacekeeping success. Partnership is essential to make peacekeeping effective. 

## **Alliance, contd from pg. 4**

to combating corruption for development” focused on short-term and longer-term policies, strategies and programmes that promote integrity, professionalism and accountability and prevent corruption. The second interactive dialogue, “Shared roles and responsibilities: developing innovative partnerships for comprehensive action against corruption” focused on how all national, regional and international stakeholders involved in the fight against corruption can promote innovative public-private partnerships aimed at fostering integrity and accountability while promoting sustainable development.

Dr. Karen Judd Smith made a short intervention during the discussion on Accountability, Transparency and Sustainable Development. This was organized by the President of ECOSOC and the Director General of UNODC. Dr. Smith pointed out the importance of challenging corruption. She praised Sierra Leone and Panama for their in-country work on anti-corruption and the way these countries integrated participation of civil society at all levels in their anti-corruption efforts. She brought forward two important recommendations:


(1). Establishment of an expert group including governments, UN, expert NGOs and victims of corruption.

The purpose of the group is to study strategies to combat corruption and to ensure sustainable development. The group can explore ways to implement UN care through innovative partnership.

Governments and participants benefit from lessons learned and bringing these lessons to fruition.

(2). Focusing on stakeholders / organizations who have dealt with corruption.

The experience and knowledge of stakeholders/organizations can be used for anti-corruption. This would help to build constructive solutions. The Alliance invites UNODC, UNDP, ECOSOC, Anti-corruption Academy, World Bank and World Economic Forum to join us during the week of Dec. 3rd to Dec. 10th, 2012, around Anti-Corruption Day to attend the “Week of Focusing on Good Society”, to examine the vision and work of being a good society, so as to underpin and underscore those who have successfully dealt with corruption and allow their expertise, knowledge and experience to be brought to bear.


The Link to the YouTube video of Dr. Karen Judd Smith’s intervention, extracted from the UNTV webcast: <http://youtube.com/watch?v=yMKFGFhIo2M&feature=youtu.be> 



## **RIO+20, contd from pg. 3**

equality and sustainable development. Topics discussed at the forum included: advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment in green economies; normative frameworks and the integration of the three pillars of sustainable development; and shaping the new international development framework.

In her opening remarks, Dr. Michelle Bachelet, Executive Director of UN Women stated, “Sustainable development requires women’s full participation. UN Women is hosting this Leaders’ Forum and the Women Leaders’ Summit on the 21st to tell Rio and the world about The Future that Women Want. We are not coming to Rio+20 to reaffirm what we have already agreed upon. We need a new development paradigm that is inclusive, people-centered, protects the environment, and is built on the premise of human rights, dignity and equality for all of us—all 7 billion people on our planet.” She further stressed that looking beyond 2015, we need a development framework that prioritizes gender equality and the empowerment of women, and most of all we need to turn words into action! Action so that climate changes and environmental decline are acted on as the urgent priorities they are in an intelligent, cooperative manner.”

The Women Leaders’ High Level Summit gathered women Heads of State and Governments to join Under-Secretary-General and UN Women Executive Director Michelle Bachelet to sign a Call to Action: The Future Women Want. They pledged their support and urged governments, civil society and the private sector to prioritize gender equality and women’s empowerment in the sustainable development agenda. It calls on global leaders to accelerate actions and policies for a sustainable future. (Link to full text on the Future We Want: <http://www.unctd2012.org/content/documents/727The%20Future%20We%20Want%2019%20June%201230pm.pdf>) 



## Eradication of Poverty, contd from pg. 1

employment. Low quality jobs and slow or uncertain transitions from school to work are holding students back from connecting to permanent jobs. One alarming statistic shows that around 75 million young people are unemployed around the world. With a warm smile and energetic personality she suggests the need for coordination and collective partnership to resolve this growing issue. She hopes that youth voices can be heard, creativity engaged, and their rights respected. (Ms. Awad's PPT : <http://www.wfwp.org>)



**Ms. Lashmi Puri**, a strong and passionate speaker, emphasized the importance of gender equality as well as the effects of women gaining rights through government and legislation. Unlocking the potential of women by recognizing them during economic growth and removing barriers to women as participants in the economy will empower them. Since poverty has become feminized, it limits women from being successful and feeling secure. Collecting data on different initiatives women have developed and nurtured, especially in rural underdeveloped parts of the world such as India, would dramatically help legislation move forward and reduce the impacts of poverty. Promoting productive capacity, employment and work will also aid in eradicating poverty. (Ms. Puri's full text: <http://www.wfwp.org>)



As the ambassador of Mozambique to the UN, **Mr. Antonio Gumende** identifies Mozambique's five major objectives to help eradicate poverty. By increasing production in fisheries and agriculture, promoting employment creation, fostering human and social development, improving governance, and pursuing sound macroeconomic and fiscal management, Mozambique aims to decrease poverty. These efforts have had a positive impact on rural districts, especially with the help of local entrepreneurs. Speaking with sincerity, he feels that as a result, jobs have been generated, land is properly prepared for agriculture, and there is more access to credit opportunities in rural areas. Amidst international economic struggles and poor health conditions in Mozambique due to HIV/AIDS, Mozambique continues to reduce its poverty rate by 16 percent a year, with an additional one percent added every year since 2003.



In places like Mali and Madagascar for example, says **Mr. Cheick Side Diarra**, the unemployment rate for young people is rising. Women around the world also face challenges because of inequalities in the



labor market. As a result, they are paid less for their work. He feels it will be hard to achieve any millennium goals if women are not included or given equal rights. One challenge will be job creation, especially for women. He insists their skills and talents should be used to help the economy; better incomes have even been linked to educated women. He suggests that production led policies should be flexible when implemented in different sectors, including educating on social welfare and health. Empowering national leaders to take ownership of positive change, increasing domestic production to solve local issues, and using technology can help to decrease poverty. He is confident that with concrete steps, nations can develop productive capacities, and eradicate poverty. (Mr. Diarra's full text: <http://www.wfwp.org>)

**Dr. Nessie Ndivi-Hill** conveys the power of microfinance opportunities in Cameroon to eradicating poverty. The credit union, CAMCCUL, is one example of educating members and society about money management. It helps members to be funded in hopes with loans and savings, as well as helping businesses thrive through offering low interest rates so the businesses could in turn help reduce poverty in their community. Finance education has facilitated small projects that reduce poverty and sustain future developments. She recommends reducing membership fees for poor members and using local resources to sustain the community. Her desire is for NGO's role to promote empowerment of people in society and eradication of poverty step by step.



**Dr. Karen J. Smith** relies on her quick and spirited speaking skills by leaving her computer aside and simply discussing the core capacity of people. What NGOs should be doing is honing in on problem solving skills, she says. Learnable tools to resolve problems should be the response to horrible situations and other unforeseen issues. Constructing solutions instead of being problem experts is what she believes to be the turning point in figuring out the right direction. People in a horrible circumstance can change the situation with basic tools or strategies because they will know the best answer for their specific case.



Closing the event, Mrs. Sugiyama held a question and answer session from the audience for the panelists. Questions addressed the roles of women during times of economic uncertainty. More topics covered young adults in unemployment, with suggestions towards maximizing their talents through technology, and also what the UN might contribute on the topic of women and children in violent war zones. The event concluded with warm applause from the audience. The discussion on poverty with step by step approaches from the panelists, as well as their personal perspectives,

allowed for a productive and successful event. People continued to talk amongst themselves on the main themes and approaches as part of the wider discussion on poverty.

### Fellowship Luncheon

Fellowship and networking efforts hosted by the WFWPI UN Office continued after the event at a local restaurant. This luncheon celebrated the amazing panelists and their efforts to educate about the issues of poverty, and the success of the event. Original music was performed by a guest audience member in response to the topics of the inspiring event. The festivities continued with more inspired singing and discussions.



### Healthy Oceans, contd from pg. 3

document establishing an Ocean Acidification Observation Network. This kind of initiative will help countries develop early warning signs which will allow them to identify the tipping point. Mr. Cousteau urged decision-makers to encourage communities to work from the bottom up while they work from the top down. If the government and the general public do not work together, and realize the ocean is the lifeblood of the planet, without a healthy planet, there cannot be a healthy economy, or healthy people. The speakers also weighed the advantages and disadvantages of fish farming. There are concerns that fish farming can be unhealthy for the marine ecosystem and of inferior quality, however according to Ms. Brownstein aquaculture can be done extremely well; it just needs to be done right. Ms. Speer concluded by stating that fishing is not the only issue that can have a profound effect for protected areas. Other activities in the ocean such as energy extraction, shipping, mining, etc, are also impactful. Two thirds of the ocean lacks a mechanism for creation of multi-sector protected areas including the high seas which covers about half the planet's surface.

### Media Freedom, contd from pg. 2

and satellite television have played a central part in generating an extraordinary ripple effect: from a vegetable seller's simple cry for human dignity to the fall of autocratic regimes and the possibility that millions of people will enjoy, for the first time, democracy and opportunities so long denied."

The President of Ireland, H.E. Michael D. Higgins, followed with a passionate defense of freedom of press and access to the internet for all. He stressed that "Our reiteration of the principles of World Press Freedom Day is an act of solidarity but it must, in order to have authenticity, be a commitment to turn human rights aspirations in this area from aspirations to guarantees."

H.E. Eduardo Ulibarri-Bilbao, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica and Chairperson, Committee on Information, warned against adoption of the same new technologies and digital advances currently used by new media

*In Loving Memory  
of Father Moon, who invested his  
whole heart and entire life to creating  
a world of peace and true love.*

**Rev. Sun Myung Moon**

WFWPI Cofounder

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voices of citizens by the very governments against which they are uprising. Mr. Giampaolo Pioli, President of the UN Correspondents Association read the names of the 63 journalists lost this year.

A panel discussion followed, moderated by Mr. Mogens Schmidt, Director of Field Coordination for UNESCO. Mr. Schmidt mentioned the fruit vendor in Tunisia who set himself on fire, starting the "revolution" in the Mideast. Mr. Ian Bassin, Campaign Director and General Counsel at Avvaz updated on technology advances. He urged these 21st century tools be used to develop 21st century policy. Ms. Amy Goodman, an award-winning journalist, best known for her radio program "Democracy Now!" gave a passionate speech about freedom of the press to voice all viewpoints, not just corporate views.

The union of press freedom and freedom of expression has enabled emergence of new ways to communicate, and has allowed civil society and communities to bring about massive social and political transformations. Yet, media freedom is fragile, and is not yet within reach of everyone. Independence, safety and freedom of the media are not guaranteed. We must acknowledge that freedom for the media comes with responsibilities.

### Families & Peace, contd from pg. 5

confines women's domain to the intimate and family space; and Liberal with men and women as equals. The view of God as male leads to male dominance and women being subjected to restrictions not placed on men.

**Protestant**—Rev. William McComish, Dean Emeritus, St Peter's Cathedral, Geneva: Calvin's teaching is family based and protects family life. In today's Geneva many families have more than one religious background. This creates opportunity for appreciation of differences.

**Catholicism**—Dr. Richard Friedli, Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Theology, Univ. Fribourg explained there is official Catholic doctrine on family but much global variation. Much depends on economic circumstances. Meeting basic needs of families; food, water, and medical comes first.

**Islam**—Dr. Tariq Ramadan, Oxford Professor of Islamic Studies stated, to address peace we should consider principles of religion, commitment and implementation. Marriage is regarded as half of faith. Different Islamic traditions and exist within different cultures. The priority should be on creating peace not on theological complexities. We are at peace when all our needs are met; spiritual, social, political, and economic. We need to realise wellbeing for all to realize peace. The family is a school of humility whose goal is peace. Let's celebrate the good and resist the bad.

**Unificationism**—Mr. Tim Miller, Vice Chair, Unificationist Community, Europe spoke of his experience at a marriage ceremony of 2000 couples officiated by Rev Moon in 1982, dedicated to world peace through ideal families. In 1992, a larger event included elders of diverse faiths rededicating their marriages, cooperating to uphold marriage, family, purity and fidelity as cornerstones of a stable loving society. Peace is achieved through closeness to God and through families where God dwells.

**Day 2:** The Economic and Social Contribution of the Family: combating Poverty and Crime - Complete report online at [www.wfwp.org](http://www.wfwp.org).

### Upcoming Events

- ❖ Sep. 18 67th Session of UN General Assembly Opening Session
- ❖ Oct. 16 World Food Day
- ❖ Oct. 17 Int'l Day of Eradication of Poverty
- ❖ Oct. 24 United Nations Day
- ❖ Oct. 26-28 WFWP Int'l Leaders Meeting in Las Vegas
- ❖ 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. 4-15 57th Commission on the Status of Women 2013

### EMPOWER TO ERADICATE POVERTY

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

Support the efforts of  
WFWP volunteers worldwide:

Women's Federation for World Peace Int'l  
4 West 43rd Street  
New York, NY 10036, USA  
(Make checks payable to WFWP Int'l)

For more information about projects, see Biennial Reports:

[www.wfwp.org](http://www.wfwp.org)

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