



WOMEN'S FEDERATION FOR WORLD PEACE INTERNATIONAL

United Nations Office Newsletter

Summer 2018

2018 Global Women's Peace Award

Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury Honored for Lifelong Commitment to Women's Empowerment

March 17, 2018 - New York, NY



(left to right) Alexa Ward, Prof. Yeon Ah Moon, Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, Carolyn Handschin

Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury is the Former Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the United Nations. The 2018 Global Women's Peace Award was presented to Ambassador Chowdhury on March 17, 2018 during WFWPI's Horizon Summit in New York City. The following is an abridged excerpt of Ambassador Chowdhury's acceptance speech. To read the full, unabridged transcript, please visit our [website](#).

I am deeply moved by the honor bestowed on me as the recipient of the 2018 Global Women's Peace Award presented by the Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI). I am touched by what the Board of Directors of WFWPI said. In conveying the decision, they mentioned that the Award is being presented "in recognition of your lifelong commitment to the empowerment of women and for your leadership in the UN that resulted in the adoption of the groundbreaking [UN Security Council Resolution 1325](#), on Women and Peace and Security, in 2000." My sincere thanks go to all of you for that.

Peace is integral to human existence – in everything we do, in everything we say and in every thought we have, there is a place for peace. We should not isolate peace as something separate. We should know how to relate to one

another without being unpleasant, without being violent, without being disrespectful, without neglect, without prejudice. Once we are able to do that, we are able to take the next step forward in building the culture of peace. We need to focus on empowering the individual so that each one of us becomes – individually – an agent of peace and nonviolence.

The essence of the culture of peace is its message of self-transformation and its message of inclusiveness, of global solidarity, of the oneness of humanity. Let us remember that the work for peace is a continuous process. Each one of us can make a difference in that process. Peace cannot be imposed from outside; it must be realized from within.

“ Unless women are engaged in advancing a culture of peace at equal levels at all times with men, sustainable peace will continue to elude us.

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WFWPI & IOM CSW62 Side Event

Fostering Hope for Rural Women and Girls

March 14, 2018 - Japan Society, NY

By Julia Handschin

On March 14, 2018, during the 62nd session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the UN Office for the [International Organization for Migration](#) (IOM) and WFWPI International (WFWPI) co-sponsored the side event, "Fostering Hope for Rural Women and Girls Through Integration and Education: Challenges and Impact."



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Vision Statement

Women working together to realize one global family rooted in a culture of sustainable peace.

Mission Statement

Empowering women as peacebuilders and leaders in the family to transform the community, nation and world. Through education, advocacy, partnership, reconciliation and humanitarian service, WFWPI aims to create an environment of peace and wellbeing for future generations and people of all races, cultures and religious creeds.

Carolyn Handschin - *Editor-in-Chief*

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One soul-stirring inspiration that I have experienced from my work for the culture of peace is that we should never forget that when women – half of the world's seven plus billion people – are marginalized, there is no chance for our world to get sustainable peace in the real sense. It is my strong belief that unless women are engaged in advancing the culture of peace at equal levels at all times with men, sustainable peace will continue to elude us.

Women bring a new breadth, quality and balance of vision to a common effort of moving away from the cult of war towards the culture of peace. I believe wholeheartedly that women's equality makes our planet safe and secure.

Empowering women's political leadership will have ripple effects on every level of society. When politically empowered, women bring important and different skills and perspectives to the policy making table in comparison to their male counterparts. I underscore often that when women join politics, they want to DO something. When men join politics, they want to BE something.

UN HQ in New York

WFWPI & Guild of Service Co-sponsor CSW62 Parallel Event

Engaging the Rural Family: The Vital Role of Education

March 16, 2017 - Church Center for the UN, New York City



Meera Khanna, Executive Vice President of the Guild of Service in India

By Grace Prentice-Jung

On March 16, 2018, WFWPI International co-sponsored a parallel event with The Guild of Service as part of the [62nd Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW62\)](#) on the theme "Engaging the Rural Family: The Vital Role of Education." The speakers shared their insights on the role and importance of education and sustainable methods of supporting rural communities.

The event started in anticipation as around 135 people filled the room on the second

floor of the Church Center for the United Nations in New York City. There was a friendly atmosphere as members of different women's NGOs and participants of CSW62 greeted each other.

Ms. Krista Smith, a recent graduate of the University of Bridgeport's College of Public and International Affairs, served as emcee and co-chair of this event. She invited Ms. Meera Khanna, Executive Vice President of the [Guild of Service](#) in India, to open the program.

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“**When women join politics, they want to do something. When men join politics, they want to be something.**”

I will emphasize here that none of the 17 SDGs will make headway in any real sense, until we make progress in realizing the objective of women's equality and empowerment. Gender equality is a fundamental matter of human rights, democracy and social justice and is also a precondition for sustainable growth and sustainable peace.

Let me reiterate that I am proud to be a feminist. All of us need to be. That is how we make our planet a better place to live for all. We should always remember that without peace, development is impossible, and without development, peace is not achievable, but without women, neither peace nor development is conceivable.

I would ask you – the young of today – to look into yourselves. In a world where material pursuits are the be-all and end-all of human endeavor, find a real space for spirituality in your life. In your eagerness to get something quickly, never ever sell your soul. I am confident that you will make every effort to rid yourselves and your fellow men and women of the evils of intolerance and prejudice, ignorance and selfishness that compel us to repeat the cycle of discrimination, prejudice and violence.



Professor Yeon Ah Moon, WFWPI President, and Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury



UN at Geneva

The Gender Pay Gap

Can We Make Equal Pay a Reality?

March 26, 2018 - United Nations Library, UN Office at Geneva



(center) Perm. Rep. of Iceland to the UN at Geneva

By *Yesung Prevost-Kim*

Gender discrimination and segregation is an issue affecting the majority of women around the world through unequal labor possibilities, development in the professional sphere, and women's wages compared to men. Women not only have lower salaries but lower pensions. In order to have the same pension after retirement, women have to work an average of ten years longer than men.

On March 26th, 2018, the United Nations Library in Geneva commemorated Equal Pay

Day by hosting a discussion on the subject called "The Gender Pay Gap: Can We Make Equal Pay a Reality?". Olga Algayerova, [United Nations Economic Commission for Europe \(UNECE\)](#) Executive Secretary and Under-Secretary General, who also participated in the 2017 Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Conference in Vienna organized by WFP, made opening remarks. She declared that "the most difficult change needs to take place at the individual level." She continued, "Only if we, men and women, are willing to challenge norms and cultures, will we make equal pay a reality."

Christine Löw, Director of the UN Women Liaison Office in Geneva, argued that societies tend to value sectors dominated by women less than those dominated by men. Consequently, despite the [Equal Remuneration Convention](#) ratified by 90% of the [International Labour Organization's \(ILO\)](#) members, the gender wage gap in the world stands at 23%. The goals of the Equal Remuneration Convention is equal remuneration for work of equal

“**At the current rate, it will take over 100 years to close the gender pay gap.**”

value for men and women. Member States may accomplish this through legislation, or rather the introduction of a system for wage determination via collective bargaining agreements. Women working in the UNECE earn on average only 18.2% less than what men make. This gender pay gap continues despite the acknowledgment of the principle of equal remuneration. At the current rate, it will take over 100 years to close the gender pay gap.

Iceland has been ranked as the globe's most gender-equal country by the [World Economic Forum](#) for nine years running. On January 1st, 2018, Iceland became the first country in the

Equal Pay continued on page 10

Women and Global Migration Root Causes and Innovative Solutions

February 23, 2018 - UN Office at Geneva

By *Je-ok Presser and Carolyn Handschin*

WFPPI partnered with eight NGOs to host a conference on "Women and global migration: Root causes and innovative solutions" at the UN in Geneva. This forum was conceived as an opportunity to bring governments, experts and practitioners together to debate and compare their knowledge, evidence and best practices. Differences in regional dynamics and growing complexities made this forum more urgent than ever. The debates touched on different areas, including the causes of displacement, the relationship between migration and the labor market, remedies for better integration in the host countries, and the influences of radicalization, all cross-cutting with migrant women.

Speaking to a packed room, the Director General of the UN Office at Geneva, Mr. Michael Moller, began his opening remarks by reminding the audience that migration is as old as humanity itself and that migration is not a threat, but xenophobia is. Additionally, he stressed that accurate statistics are crucial when talking about migration. Opening Remarks were also given by the Deputy Permanent Representative of Morocco to the UN, Mr. Boukili, the Ambassador of Malta, H.E. Olaph

Terribile, and the Ambassador of Italy, H.E. Mr. Maurizio Enrico Serra, all whose countries are being highly affected by migration.

“**Migration is as old as humanity itself...[it] is not a threat.**”

Ambassador Serra pointed out that women and children are the most vulnerable and are often forced to take dangerous routes to arrive in Italy. She said that possibilities need to be provided, such as work permits, residence permits and for migrants to learn the local culture. Education is a paramount factor for dignity. Therefore, investment in capacity building, local development and resilience is crucial. Ambassador Terribile described how the people of his nation have been working on a long-term strategy to guarantee full integration. Thousands of lives have been saved by their maritime patrols. The Italian Ambassador responded to a question by WFP about partnership and the gap the government expects civil society to fill in this crisis. "There

is a need for more platforms (like this) for honest exchange," he said. "How civil society looks at migration will give a better picture to the government but also civil society can understand the mandate of authorities."

The first session, "Factors affecting Migration Flows," facilitated by NGO CSW President, Simone Ovar, gave space for NGO representatives from [Zonta International](#), [Ocaproce International](#) as well as [Bangwe & Dialogue](#) to discuss recent causes of displacement and to state the reality of the situations in their fields of work. Mrs. Sonja Hoenig Schough, International President



Migration continued on page 10

UN at Vienna

Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

Girls, Not Brides

November 28, 2017 - Vienna International Center, UN Office at Vienna

By *Amelia Riehl-Schnorr*

An event was held at the Vienna International Center in acknowledgement of the “16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence” campaign. Sonja Wintersberger, Deputy Director of the [United Nations Information Service](#) (UNIS) in Vienna, gave the welcoming remarks and introduced the speakers and panelists.

Participating in the debate was Margit Fischer, Former First Lady of Austria, President of the Science Center Network and President of the Austrian Women’s Council. Panelists at the event included Zoe Birchall, Global Advocacy Focal Point for [Girls Not Brides](#), Kapila Gupta, President of the International [Inner Wheel in India](#), Sonja Hoeng Schough, President of ZONTA International, Viviane Tassi Bela, Gender and Human Rights Expert in Cameroon, and finally, moderator Martina Gredler, Chair of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women Vienna as well as UN Representative for [Soroptimist International](#).

The reports given reflected on the worldwide dire situation of girls being forced into marriage. This issue has strong cultural and traditional roots in patriarchal communities, poverty, lack of opportunities and education, insecurity and social and gender norms.

The speakers emphasized that there are many consequences that affect the girls who are put into this situation. Some of these consequences include domestic violence, early death, health risks, fertility issues, unwanted pregnancies, and, in general, a loss of childhood.

“**Researchers have found that most girls in childhood marriages are younger than 15 years old.**”

After discussing the issue and its causes, the panel explored solutions. Raising awareness of the cultural norms in various places was deemed important in ending the child bride situation. The legal age of marriage for girls in many countries is 15 or 16, but researchers have found that most girls in childhood marriages are under 15 years old. It was also discussed that local women leaders should be involved in the process of preventing child and forced marriages. Policies and strategies must be incorporated into international laws. Another point mentioned in the panel discussion is that girls with higher levels of schooling are less likely to marry as children and therefore education plays a key role in preventing child marriage. It was noted that men and boys must also be involved in discussions and events and be given the opportunity to actively reflect on girls’ rights.

There are several organizations and private initiatives that developed projects and programs to allow girls to live in a safe environment. In these programs, girls have the opportunity to receive education and learn their rights.



NGO CSW Vienna, ACUNS & WFWPI Hold Conference on SDG5 & SDG17

Partnerships for Peace Meets Gender Equality

January 20-22, 2018 - UN Office at Vienna



By *Amelia Riehl-Schnorr*

[ACUNS](#) (Academic Council of the United Nations System), together with the support of WFWPI and other members of NGO CSW in Vienna, organized a conference in January 2018 on developments around Gender Equality (SDG5) within the framework of Partnerships for Peace (SDG17).

The event was well attended, with a large percentage of the audience being under 25 years old. Both days held engaging panels on gender equality and female empowerment from the viewpoint of politics, health, education, technology, research, communication and more.

One of the highlights of the conference was the panel on “My Path to Leadership.”

Among the panelists was Angela Me, Director of Research at the [UN Office on Drugs and Crime](#). She shared that in order to be a leader in your field, it is beneficial to know “what you need,” “what helps” and “what is difficult.” Having faced the reluctance of men to accept her authority, she had to be willing to take risks and leave her comfort zone to become a leader. In Ms. Me’s experience, it helps to have a supportive family and to find someone who is willing to open up opportunities for you. Ms. Me explained that the challenges involved on a path to leadership include recognizing that everyone has a learning curve and that being willing to ask for help is also difficult. She encouraged everyone to follow their passion and to take ownership and authority over their lives.

Christine Muttonen, former President of the [Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe](#), spoke of changes needed in the political sphere, saying, “Women bring a gender perspective to the table and can educate others about the needs of women and girls.” She also touched on security implications of climate change, the role of culture as a peacebuilding tool and management’s responsibility to support work-life balance for men and women.

Angelika Kessling, Head of Corporate Communications at Robert Bosch AG, encouraged everyone to strive for excellence and to be clear about what they want. Kessling also advised everyone to create opportunities, in addition to just taking opportunities. She also stated that having a clear “love it, change it, or leave it” mantra is useful in determining what is important to you and then helping you decide whether it is in your realm of control or not.



In her closing remarks, Heba Essam El-Din El-Sayed, an Egyptian alumna of [UNODA’s](#) (UN Office for Disarmament Affairs) Women’s Scholarship for Peace, reminded everyone not to underestimate the value of expressing love and genuine concern for those around you throughout your career and life.



New York continued...

Hope continued from page 1

The event took place in the auditorium of the Japan Society, across from the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. The building's incredible architecture of wooden ceiling panels to the serene water fountain in the foyer seemed a fitting metaphor of the hope at the center of the event's theme.



Ms. Maryam Farooq, a pre-med student at SUNY Westbury in New York, served as emcee and welcomed the audience, promising an informative session on the scientific and educational approach of human rights for rural women and girls. She invited two guest speakers to give the opening remarks: Mr. Ashraf El Nour, Director of the UN Office for IOM; and Professor Yeon Ah Moon, President of WFWPI.



In Mr. El Nour's statement, he acknowledged the instrumental role of CSW in the protection of women's rights, which documents women's lives and uses those resources as tools for advocacy. Despite the vulnerable position that women find themselves in, Mr. El Nour is hopeful that women are capable to resist and remain resilient to the shocks that come with survival during migration. He adamantly shared that people need to take more initiative to plan effective programs benefiting rural women.

Prof. Yeon Ah Moon thanked Mr. El Nour for his statement and shared how humbled she felt to be in the presence of such esteemed



guest speakers. She expressed how fitting it was that this event coincided with the UN debates on the [Global Compact for Migration](#), expressing her belief that partnerships with like-minded people and organizations could make the impact migration needs. According to Prof. Moon, by working together in harmony, through love and shared responsibilities, hope can be returned to those vulnerable in displaced communities.

After a resounding applause from the audience, the emcee invited the panelists up to the stage one by one to give their different perspectives and methods for instilling hope in rural women and girls.



The first panelist, Dr. Sakena Yacoobi, who greeted the audience with a few words in Arabic, emphasized how vital education was in giving hope to young women. As the founder and CEO of the [Afghan Institute of Learning \(AIL\)](#), she stressed the importance of giving young women more opportunities for training to showcase and hone their skills. She insisted that the support for women's rights must come not only from government or men, but also from the community. Dr. Yacoobi emphasized that breaking away from old traditions that undermine women's rights is necessary. In her closing statement, she said, "Women of Afghanistan are really progressing..They will take on whatever challenges come their way!"

Professor Catherine Panter-Brick, Professor of Anthropology and Global Health at Yale University, whose research specializes in human resilience and health impacted by conflict, shared her realization that programs relating to child education and development have to be unpacked and examined to bring long-lasting results. She described a method of tracking which programs were most effective in easing stress by analyzing a single strand of hair. She has successfully tracked stress levels affecting

“**Children can fly if we give them wings.**”

human behavior, social relationships, experiential learning and decision-making. The hope of this revolutionary [discovery](#) for Professor Panter-Brick is to establish a system of effective programs that will guarantee proper access to child education. "There is no life without hope," she concluded. "Children can fly if we give them wings."



As the final panelist, Ms. Moriko Hori, President of WFWP Japan, gave a presentation on the organization's project with the Karen tribes in Thailand. The project assists young girls of the tribe by giving them easier access to education.

Ms. Hori detailed how WFWP Japan assists in school management, building facilities and providing temporary foster parents for young girls who live too far from school. "Twice a year, I take young Japanese girls to these villages so they can see these young girls from the Karen tribe," shared Ms. Hori. "In CSW, rural women are said to have many bad experiences, but to see that these girls in Thailand have more energy than the young Japanese girls offers a moving perspective on education."



After a rich question and answer session with the panelists, the event came to a close with a loud round of applause from the audience. Elisabeth Giuliano, a member of WFWPI, reflected, "For me, in order to achieve women's equality, it is necessary to have them assured of the basic services, such as security, access to technology and education. The only way to achieve that is by involving not only the women themselves, but also their families and their communities."



Support Strategic Chapters

WFWPI Co-Founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, is putting emphasis on nations with a potential for appreciable development. Regional and global support of these strategic chapters is essential for their continued growth. Over the next few editions, our newsletter will highlight these thirteen nations, hoping that from amongst our readers, there may be ideas for networking and resource-sharing with the national WFWP chapter. Contact details are listed and they would surely be delighted to hear from you.

Taiwan

With the dawning of the era of women, Taiwan has an important role to play.

As society changes and with the advancement of women's rights, Taiwanese women have made extraordinary contributions and achievements in both the private and public sector.

WFWP was officially registered as an international women's organization at the Ministry of the Interior in Taiwan in 1992.

Since its founding, WFWP Taiwan has dedicated itself to uniting women who will take action for the moral education and healing of families and their society.

WFWP Taiwan was the first women's organization to start an AIDS prevention project in Taiwan. Over the past 25 years of this project, WFWP Taiwan has been formally recognized by the government for their efforts in AIDS prevention, as well as their anti-smoking campaigns.

In 1999, Taipei Municipal Library appointed WFWP Taiwan as "Lifelong Learning Co-organizers." WFWP Taiwan has also consecutively received the "Excellent National People's Organizations" by the Ministry of the Interior. Their anti-smoking campaigns have reached over 70,000 students.

WFWP Taiwan's 3 Main Areas of Focus

1. Safeguarding health and character education for youth
2. Women's empowerment and the Happy Family Training Program
3. Women Entrepreneurs Charity Platform & women's economic empowerment

WFWP Taiwan hopes to establish the Global Women's Peace Center in Taiwan to provide a platform for broader international cooperation and resource sharing. By helping women in need in developing nations and offering vocational training for women, WFWP Taiwan hopes to empower women and youth to promote peace and have greater autonomy over their lives.

For more information, please contact **Lily Lin** at taiwan@wfwp.org.



Youth Leaders Empowerment Camp co-organized with National Taiwan Normal University



International Forum on Women's Economic Empowerment



Service project at a children's home in Confucius' hometown in Shandong Province, China



Anti-Smoking Campaign press conference and awards ceremony co-organized with New Taipei City



Happiness Family Empowerment Program at Taoyuan WFWP Service Center



WFWP Taiwan board members



Launch of WFWP Taiwan's Innovative Development Plans of 2018



WFWP's 25th Anniversary Celebration & Happy Family Awards Ceremony in Taipei

Ivory Coast

WFWP was established in Ivory Coast, also known as Côte d'Ivoire, in 1992 and officially registered in February 1994.

WFWP CI's (Fédération des femmes pour la paix mondiale Côte d'Ivoire) programs are centered on leadership training for women and girls, education for peace and reconciliation, service projects, AIDS prevention education, an awareness campaign to prevent underage pregnancy in schools, technical support, and medical assistance.

Their signature "character education" sessions are given in schools and different localities to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS, abstinence and underage pregnancy, all with the aim of creating a healthy nation.

WFWP CI gives lectures and offers training to women on the qualities of feminine leadership, which emphasizes fidelity as a critical component to family stability and social harmony in the country.

Since early 2017, WFWP CI's priority has been to improve the health of the general population, whose life expectancy is 53 years old.

WFWP CI collects used clothes and makes donations to women's associations and orphanages. Quarterly blood donations are organized in collaboration with the National Center of Blood Transfusion.

WFWP's signature "Bridge of Peace" ceremony has been carried out several times to bring together conflicting communities locally, offering a chance for reconciliation and collaboration for peace and development.

Ambassadors for Peace, an honor given to those whose efforts have actively contributed to a peaceful society, have included female journalists and several ministers: the Minister of Women, Child Protection and Solidarity; and the Minister of Environment, Cleanliness and Sustainable Development and the Ministry

of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

WFWP CI is also working with women in rural areas to raise their awareness of certain issues, such as the importance of prenatal and neonatal visits in health care centers.

Partnerships have been established with other women's associations and NGOs, strengthening WFWP CI's reach and impact.

Since 2013, the "Hak Ja Han Moon Trophy" has been awarded to women who exemplify the leadership and lifestyle of WFWPI's co-founder as a model for women in Ivory Coast. This program is gaining more and more support from community leaders.

WFWP CI's greatest hope and future plan is to establish a training center for girls and agricultural projects to help women out of poverty.

For more information, please contact **Hélène Yessoh** at cotedivoire@wfwp.org.



Minister of Environmental Safety and Sustainable Development



Minister and wives of ministers attending WFWP CI event



(center) Deputy Mariame Traore



Ministers receiving WFWP CI's charter



(center) Ms. Ahoussou, wife of the Minister of State



WFWP CI 25th Anniversary Celebration



Associations who received donations from WFWP CI



WFWP CI clothing drive



Cleanup service project at Abobo Town Hall

New York continued...

Parallel Event continued from page 2

Ms. Khanna acknowledged that we are all “comrades on the path to women’s empowerment” and expressed her delight at creating new bonds with WFWPI and young women. She launched into a description of India’s challenges and barriers, such as how 69% of the population is illiterate, that there is a very high level of violence against women, and that women, especially rural women and girls, are marginalized in society. Ms. Khanna passionately spoke of the key role of education and how it intersects with the aforementioned challenges. She drew attention to the way we conceptualize “education” – that education does not only exist in the classroom, but how indigenous “barefoot knowledge” is also very important. “This makes sense because traditional knowledge is [also] knowledge,” said Ms. Khanna. The audience applauded enthusiastically as she said, “There is an absolute paradigm shift! The way we educate in India is changing.”



The next speaker, Ambassador Isaiah Chabala, former Permanent Representative of Zambia to the UN and special advisor to the [NGO CSW NY Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns](#), gave his address by first acknowledging his faith and warmly spoke about all of us being “one human family.” Ambassador Chabala focused on what we can do rather than on the challenges of those in rural communities. He spoke about his experience after retiring as Permanent Representative, feeling called to social justice ministry to advocate for orphans and widows who were in need, and to promote the empowerment of women within the UN. Ambassador Chabala confidently stated “I’ve become a women’s activist” and stressed the need to meditate and go back to God to become activists ourselves.



Dr. Bishnu Maya Pariyar, founding President of the [Association of Dalit Women Advancement in Nepal](#), was welcomed next to expound on her experience working with Dalit women and children in Nepal through micro-funding, education, empowerment and sustainable farming. Dr. Pariyar shared the moving and emotional story of her rural upbringing in Nepal, one of challenge and humiliation. However, through the support of her loving family and the Peace Corps, she was able to transform her life through education. “It was suffering,” she said. “[However] I turned that to love and power!”



Through her inspirational story, she highlighted the power of practicing a logic of love in her own life and work. Dr. Pariyar passionately shared how she started her organization in order to help those who are marginalized, especially by gender. “Education is human rights!” she exclaimed. “We want to make sure that no one is left behind!” Dr. Pariyar’s ardent delivery ignited the audience into vigorous applause, especially when she ended with “Educating the girl is educating the whole community.”

The next speaker, Dr. Sandra Barrueco, an Associate Professor of Psychology at the Catholic University of America, spoke about her intervention approaches for young ethnically and linguistically diverse children and families in the United States, including migrant and seasonal farm workers from Mexico.



Dr. Barrueco highlighted the success of a family-focused, multi-generational approach, such as English as a Second Language classes for families. Migrant worker families have complex and multifaceted challenges. Many of these families suffer from depression, emotional pain, displacement, and lack of time with their children. According to Dr. Barrueco, it is important to empower women and families

by listening to their stories. Children’s education is not only a child’s issue, she stated, but also a family one. Through intergenerational learning with families, Dr. Barrueco believes that children can learn and develop in a holistic and ultimately more successful way.



The final panelist was a young professional who is a doctoral candidate at Yale University, Ms. Maile T. Phillips. She shared her experience in the Peace Corps in Sierra Leone with a girls club initiative. The club focused on their empowerment and educational themes of goal-setting, leadership and sexual and reproductive health. Through working with the families of these young girls and their community, Ms. Phillips was able to encourage more girls to attend school.



In closing, Ms. Alexa Ward, Director of WFWPI’s UN Office in New York, explained how this event was primarily organized by a young adult team from WFWPI, which included the emcee, Krista Smith, co-chair Maryam Farooq, Dustin Knoblauch, and Naria Garder, who were met with great appreciation from the speakers and participants.



After the event concluded, there was a warm, inspiring atmosphere of support and solidarity among those present. The guest speakers and participants shared and took pictures, leaving an impression that creating an intergenerational, collaborative spirit is the way forward.



CSW62WFWPI Highlights



Geneva continued...

Equal Pay continued from page 3

world to introduce an equal pay law, making it illegal to pay men more than women for a job of the same value. Harald Aspelund, Permanent Representative of Iceland to the UN in Geneva, who was among the first diplomats to take paternity leave, declared, “How would I explain to my children that I had the right to take paternity leave but decided not to?” He also emphasized that changing social norms contributes to equal pay and gender equality. He shared, with a smile, that the experiences he had during paternity leave were the best of his life.



Every year, women in Switzerland lose in total 7.7 billion CHF (8.7 billion USD) through discriminatory wage deals. By holding public and private sector employers accountable for ensuring equal pay, Switzerland is taking action toward eradicating this disparity. Sylvie Durrer, Director of the Swiss Federal Office for Gender Equality, emphasized the importance of data and presented the “LOGIB,” an online tool that allows Swiss companies with 50 and more employees to self-assess their gender pay gap.

Sue Johnson, Senior Manager, Inclusion and Diversity Consultant at PwC, maintained that it is in the best interest of the private sector to close the gender pay gap. Indeed, businesses that provide affordable childcare, feasible parental leave as well as transparency in reporting on the gender pay gap will increase engagement and motivation of their workers as well as improve the company image.

“**Equal work should be compensated fairly – period.**”

The gender pay gap is a major issue that raises many ethical questions for modern society, of which fairness is an essential key. This basic notion of justice is what underlies my concern about the disturbing trend of the widening gender pay gap. Equal work should be compensated fairly – period. This is more than just a women’s issue. It affects the families and children who rely on a woman’s income.



Migration continued from page 3

Zonta International, depicted the importance of communication and that migrants be provided with accurate information in order to make decisions on migration routes, as well as women knowing their rights and how to make appeals. Princess Micheline Makou Djouma, Chief Executive of Ocaproce International, promoted Independence of African countries. One speaker from the audience put forward the issue of protecting and preventing torture on migration routes, especially for women and children. Trauma from human rights violations in transit countries needs to be reported and healed and mental health support offered in host countries if integration is to succeed.

The second session on “Innovative Solutions” was chaired by Carolyn Handschin, NGO CSW Vice-President and Director of the UN Office for WFWPI, who mentioned the many programs to welcome, educate and integrate migrants in Europe that have been created by her NGO, were sparked by the compassion of local women. Ms. Gloria Moreno-Fontes Chammartin, Specialist in Migration Policies, International Labour Organization, gave several statistics on the labor force participation of migrant women in host countries, showing multiple discrimination and their need for protection. Successful



migration opportunities can foster women migrant workers’ empowerment, providing them with the necessary confidence to change inequalities, as well as their economic and social position. She believes that empowerment does not imply dominion, but rather new opportunities for autonomy and improve their capacity to take responsibility for others.

Ms. Madi Sharma, entrepreneur and Member of the [European Economic and Social Committee](#), expressed the need for policies to be created by women to drive change and protect the people and planet. Ms. Sharma stated that most policies have been designed by men and that women don’t want tokenism, but real parity where their voices can influence. She continued that empowerment is not qualification and qualification does not make women elite. She encouraged the audience to be change makers, calling women to action. She shared a famous Eleanor Roosevelt quote.

“Women are like teabags. They only know their strength when they get in hot water.” Ms. Sharma’s personal motto is, “Everything I do should make a difference.”

“**Women don’t want tokenism, but real parity where their voices can influence.**”

Mr. Patrick Taran, President, Global Migration Policy Associates, provided the audience with a reality check based on statistics and his 35 years of experience in the field of migration. Forty percent of Genevans are migrants, he reminded the audience. He believes that sustainable development depends on migration. Mr. Taran’s current focus is on designing policy frameworks for successful migration and integration, of which he says the possibilities are endless. His publication, [Cities Welcoming Refugees and Migrants](#) offers important input to this discussion. Migrants need support to be able to organize themselves to collectively define their needs and advocate for their contribution in society.

The final speaker, Dr. Brian Grim, President of the Religious Freedom & Business Foundation, concluded the session by showing videos of their projects, which he called local level peacebuilding. He works closely with the Business for Peace Platform of the UN Global Compact. He explained how soccer programs for refugees are building bridges with community members, encouraging individuals to become peacebuilders in their own local community and creating real opportunities for integration.



Solutions to remedy the issues surrounding migration exist as never before. World governments and a growing part of civil society have already committed to the [2030 Sustainable Development Agenda](#), a well-thought-out roadmap that holds tangible potential to ending forced migration and increasing prospects for cohesive communities, creating dignified livelihoods and engaging youth for its continuation.



Horizon Summit: Rising Side by Side

Bridging Generations of Peace Leaders

An intergenerational gathering dedicated to fostering peace leadership

March 18-19, 2018 - New York City



Panel discussion on peace leadership at the 2018 Horizon Summit

By Grace Kellett and Hanabeta Deshotel

Over the weekend of March 17 and 18, 2018, WFWP International (WFWPI) and WFWP USA co-sponsored the Horizon Summit in New York City. The summit brought together over 100 participants from 25 countries. Originally started in 2016 as a young women's leadership program, the Summit has grown into an intergenerational gathering dedicated to fostering peace leadership. This year's theme was "Rising Side by Side." The panel and discussions highlighted the necessity for inclusiveness and collaboration.

Professor Yeon Ah Moon, President of WFWPI, opened the Summit with her characteristic grace and charm. Her caring heart for the future of the global family was apparent when she reminded participants, whom she addressed as "my family," that what is most needed in peace leadership today is love.

The morning's panel on "Peace Leadership" composed of Ms. Carolyn Handschin, Director of the UN Office for WFWPI, Ambassador Suzan Johnson Cook, Ms. Prativa Khanal, Cora Weiss Peacebuilding Fellow at the [Global Network of Women Peacebuilders](#),



and Dr. Sakena Yacoobi, Founder and CEO of the Afghan Institute of Learning, offered their thoughtful insights and experiences in this growing body of expertise. In their presentations on their current peacebuilding work, each speaker reinforced the importance of that same core element mentioned in Professor Moon's statement.

After lunch, there was a brief presentation on WFWPI internships, after which guests had the opportunity to attend two one-hour capacity-building sessions given by various peace leaders and activists.

“ One plus one is two, but side-by-side, that makes eleven.

Ambassador Suzan Johnson Cook, the first female and African-American U.S. Ambassador for International Religious Freedom, is a poised and polished woman who dynamically shared her life experiences. Her session, "Women Brokering Peace with Protocol, Professionalism, and Power" was attended by women seeking to "up their game" and transition to the next level of leadership. Ambassador Johnson Cook gave her nine principles for becoming that higher-level game-changer, gleaned from her years of often being the only woman at the decision-making table. As the ambassador said, "One plus one is two, but side-by-side, that makes eleven."

Participants held hands and repeated power-giving mantras to one another and left with tools and inspiration that they, too, could make a difference on the international stage.



Ms. Margaret Williams, Senior Peace and Security Officer at the [World Federation of United Nations Associations in New York](#), led a session entitled "Advocacy: Building out a strategy," which outlined the factors necessary to consider when creating an advocacy strategy. The session was insightful and casual. The participants introduced themselves, making it clear that many in the room already had a specific issue in mind, from creating a girls' mentoring group in Philadelphia, to advocating on behalf of the mentally ill in Australia. Ms. Williams kept her session relevant to the issues expressed in the room, making the hour feel more like a working meeting than a theoretical lecture. Participants were left feeling better equipped and motivated to put this strategizing into action.



Dr. Thomas Ward, Vice President and Dean of the University of Bridgeport's College of Public and International Affairs, impressed participants with his expertise and first-hand knowledge of global affairs, as well as his warm and diplomatic bearing. He offered a practical toolkit for analyzing real-world conflicts, focusing on the North Korean nuclear issue. Participants were guided through a practice of utilizing these tools and making sense of where and when such conflicts can be influenced for a more positive outcome.


Horizon Summit continued on next page

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Ms. Iris Dotan Katz, a psychologist and an expert on reconciliation, is a woman of palpable serenity. She shared in her session, “Mindful Social Action,” principles of Buddhism that she uses both with individuals and families and in her consultations with international organizations. She pointed out that the best results in peacemaking come from beginning with the state of mind of “not knowing” but truly “listening from the heart” to the other person. She led participants in an exercise in which partners acted as “activist” and “client.” As one pair said, it was surprising to realize just how much more connected they felt when the client was simply listened to and not offered subjective solutions from the get-go.



Ms. Angelika Selle, President of WFWP USA and Vice President of WFWPI, and Ms. Katarina Connery, Vice President of WFWP USA, presented together on “Discovering the Leader Within.” They led participants through exercises in which each woman could come to understand her own unique strengths and talents, and how she could become a strong and impactful “Leader of the Heart.” One participant from Nigeria was so moved by

the exercises that she promptly declared her intention to conduct the same exercises with her team at home.



In Dr. Sakena Yacoobi’s session, she chose to focus on the topic of “What Works.” Dr. Yacoobi opened the session with a prayer, contributing to the intimacy and warmth felt by those in the room. Dr. Yacoobi emphasized her desire to learn from the participants’ experiences, making the session an exchange of knowledge and an opportunity to ask questions. She explained the various facets of her work, from how she engages with the government to what she looks for in training her staff. She explained how to be strategic and fair in conducting grassroots work with limited funds. However, it was the depth of her conviction



that came across as the clear foundation for all her work.

On Sunday, March 18, the participants were able to choose from four different tours in New York, including the FDR Presidential Library and East Garden Museum. They returned to 4 W 43rd St. for the closing program and a Korean dinner.



Ms. Ward and Ms. Selle closed the program together, thanking the guests for their participation and sharing their hope that the Horizon Summit offered an opportunity for growth and learning in the participants’ journeys as peace leaders. The core organizing team including Krista Smith, Christina Lange and Sungmi Orr, were welcomed to the stage. Appreciation was expressed for all their professional and rigorous preparation over the period of six months.



Upcoming Events

June 16	Int'l Day of the African Child
June 18-July 6	HRC 38th Session
Aug. 12	Int'l Youth Day
Sept. 10-28	HRC 39th Session
Sept. 21	Int'l Day of Peace
Oct. 11	Int'l Day of the Girl Child
Oct. 15	Int'l Day of Rural Women
Oct. 16	World Food Day
Oct. 17	Int'l Day of the 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