



# Women's

## Federation for World Peace International

United Nations Office Newsletter

Autumn 2013

### Commemoration of International Women's Day Leadership Challenges of the 21st Century: Prevention of Violence Against Women & Femicide March 28, 2013 - UN HQ, Vienna



Left to right: Panel II: Dr. Zhannat Konsumkamedova, Expert on HIV/AIDS Prevention & CE Division, UNODC, Dr. Michael Platzer, Chairman of Vienna NGO Alliance on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol, Ambassador of Thailand to Austria, H.E. Ayoob M. Erfani, UN Ambassador of Afghanistan to Vienna, Mrs. Carolyn Handschin, Director of WFWP International UN Office; and Dr. Maria Riehl, President of WFWP Austria, Vienna, Elisabeth Riedl, WFWP European Secretary General, International Affairs

By Elisabeth Cook, Elisabeth Riedl

**H.E. Ayoob M. Erfani**, Ambassador of Afghanistan to the UN in Vienna opened the session, "Thank you for initiating this important event, on the Prevention of Violence against Women and Femicide, which is a very important subject for Afghanistan. Let me express my delegation's sincere commitment in the joint efforts."

**Dr. Maria Riehl**, WFWPI UN Representative, Vienna, welcomed the nearly 200 participants. Almost fifty were representatives of youth sectors. She expressed special thanks to the four NGOs which supported the conference with expertise and voluntary assistance. She reminded the participants that one purpose of the conference was to celebrate International Women's Day. WFWPI was the initiator and one of the main organizers of the conference. Other co-sponsoring organizations were Academic Council on the UN System, Vienna (ACUNS), Parents Workshop, NGO Exit, and Universal Peace Federation (UPF).

**Dr. Shantu Watt**, Vice President of the United Nations Women's Guild (UNWG), served as Chair for the first session. In her

introduction she mentioned that violence doesn't see any boundaries of rich or poor, white or black. It happens everywhere. She also expressed her hope that WFWPI will contribute to finding root causes of violence against women, as well as to the healing that is needed. She emphasized the importance of addressing the topic of violence against women in order to strengthen awareness and support the efforts.

To everyone's surprise and delight, a musical interlude was performed by Mrs. Seiko Lee, Japan, an internationally known professional soprano, who offered a stunning performance in celebration of International Women's Day.

**H. E. Maria Oyeyinka Laese**, the Ambassador of Nigeria, gave the Keynote speech outlining a clear definition of violence against women, a term that was introduced by the UN General Assembly in 1993, and also of Femicide. She quoted Simona Domazetoska, an ACUNS intern, researching femicide, who explained that while States have numerous laws and policies in place, there is a lack of action to ensure the laws and policies are carried out at political, social and cultural levels. Ms.

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Laese called for global study and discussion on femicide at the UN level, which should be seen as a collective concern towards an end to impunity for femicide and a correction of the cultural mindset on the value of a woman.

#### **Session I: Women Standing up to Violence - Finding Hope through Concerted Action**

Panelists with diverse backgrounds and expertise presented insights and success stories about women who have survived and prevailed over violence and its effects, including rape and HIV/ AIDS. Impunity and the legal response to femicide were examined. The panelists represent work in Africa, Asia and Europe. They discussed best practices for facing, overcoming and preventing domestic violence as well as successful work to rescue and support girls and women who are victims of sex trafficking. Perspectives from education, legal measures, psychology, grass roots service and advocacy were presented.

**Ms. Claire Laurent**, ACUNS Femicide Project Coordinator explained the term **Prevention of Violence, contd. on pg. 10**



## 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. 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

Carolyn Handschin

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## At the UN in New York...

### Reports from Special Events

## Knowledge from Experience - Building the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda with People Living in Extreme Poverty

June 27, 2013 - UN HQ, New York City

*By Jeanne Carroll*

The first session opened with chair, Ms. Sara Burke, Senior Policy Analyst, Fredrich-Ebert Stiftung using the Arab Spring and Occupy Wall Street as examples of how necessary it is for technocrats to value the input of those living in extreme poverty when making policies and programs. Welcoming remarks were offered by Ms. Nina Lim-Yuson, president of International Movement ATD Fourth World who pointed out the gap which still exists for those living in extreme poverty as victims of significant human rights violations.

H.E. Mr. Gerard Araud, Ambassador of France to the United Nations applauded the efforts of ATD Fourth World and the work they are involved in worldwide to address the most extreme poverty. The Ambassador noted the interrelationship between eliminating poverty and preserving the environment. He cited France's efforts to address production methods and consumer behavior as well as preservation of ecosystems as being essential to the elimination of poverty.

Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Assistant Secretary-General, Special Advisor to the Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning, delivered a message on behalf of the

UN Secretary General. Although the MDGs have enabled six hundred million people to rise from extreme poverty there are still at least one billion people still living in deplorable poverty. The key points to be addressed are as follows:

- The need for a roadmap for eradicating poverty and building a sustainable future for all with policy coherence at all levels with space for local adaptation; socially, economically and environmentally sustainable development at its center.
- The need for a limited number of clear, concise, easy-to-communicate and inspiring goals supported by precise targets and indicators.
- The need to continue strengthening the global partnership for development.
- And the importance of addressing the clear and present danger of climate change.

The future we want is the same for all people. No one deserves to live in abject poverty.

Next, a short video, Our Daily Fight against Extreme Poverty highlighted the need for individuals to be considered before initiating any projects. The video served as an introduction for Mr. Xavier Godinot, ATD

**Post-2015, contd. on pg. 8**

## Informal Dialogue with NGOs on MDGs

In Observance of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

June 18, 2013 - UN HQ New York City

*By Cynthia Shibuya*

On June 18, 2013, the UN convened an informal dialogue with NGOs, civil society organizations, the private sector, private philanthropic foundations and UN Member States regarding the September 25th Special Event of the President of the UN General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals. The cofacilitators invited views on MDG progress and achievements to date and ways to accelerate MDG achievement. There were many good suggestions and points well taken. The following are some of the views offered.

We should have a global campaign to achieve MDGs. What are plans for civil society, for economic, social and environmental acceleration? Collective action also accelerates. We should engage the public at large. Have activities toward an end to poverty. Use the private sector to raise living standards. MDGs failed to capture the necessary momentum toward social change, to see vision, make progress and meet criteria. We need to take a more holistic approach in the next two years. Partnership is crucial to development and acceleration. Political will is also necessary.

We need overseas development assistance, domestic resources and job creation. We can accelerate through partnerships with businesses. Aid provided by rich countries enables developing countries to move forward in achievement of MDGs. Financial barriers should be addressed. There should be a share of aid for education in developing countries.

Achievement of the MDGs is hindered by discrimination. Many laws are discriminatory in nature. We need social protection laws. We need voices and participation of marginalized populations. Indigenous people are left out of the MDGs. There needs to be more cultural education. We should focus on the most vulnerable: women and children.

We need to pay attention to young people to achieve acceleration. Currently children are not a part of the 2015 MDG goal efforts, but they should be central in development. Young people provide approaches adults do not see. Future generations need to have a say and participate. Resources should be put in place for young people's participation.

**MDGs, continued on pg. 8**

# Empowering Women & Fostering Universal Values for a Culture of Peace

## WFWPI 17th Women's Conference on Peace in the Middle East

May 15-18, 2013 - Paris

By Carolyn Handschin

Over eighty women leaders and experts from twenty one countries gathered for the 17th Annual Women's Conference for Peace in the Middle East organized by WFWPI. The theme, Empowering Women and Fostering Universal Values for a Culture of Peace was decided based on more than a decade of attention given by WFWPI programs and activities to the vision for peace set forth by Paris-based UNESCO's Culture of Peace program. Discussions around the tables were already providing insight into the theme before the formal opening of the program.

One participant from the Gulf States was overheard describing how she had been able to turn around her son, who was being tempted into a life of fanaticism and near suicide at his university. Her daily alertness and concern for her son could allow her, with the whole family's participation, to catch the right moment and pull him back into their protection. Many similar stories were told, although not all with happy endings. What surfaced over and over again was the role of women, especially as mothers, in passing on values and norms. Although we came from very diverse cultural, religious, professional backgrounds and age ranges, we seemed to agree on core values easily.

The first plenary session, Dignity and Human Rights at the Center of a Culture of Peace was opened by the Director of WFWPI's UN Office, Carolyn Handschin. She posed a question that set the gauge for the outcome of the conference, "How can the influence that women have in the transmission of culture and values as mothers and as leaders assist in substantially building communities and people of peace"? She then referred to a quote from the UN Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights, Farida Shaheed. We must "shift the paradigm from one that views culture as an obstacle to women's rights to one that seeks to empower (not subordinate) women with the authority to determine which traditions should be respected and protected and transmitted for future generations".

Dr. Lan Young Moon was introduced as the WFWPI President. She explained that solving problems demands a comprehensive approach, referring to the need in this new multicultural era to make a place for shared leadership between men and women. Resolving problems cooperatively, with an investment of heart and sacrifice, not always a popular concept, is the new paradigm for the 21st Century.

Dr. Amal Osman, a constitutional law professor in Egypt and former Deputy Speaker of the People's Assembly, explained that the values, attitudes and traditions that



women pass on need to be rooted in freedom and democracy. The quality of education, formal and informal, will be a measure of the sustainability of peace. We cannot end violence and division without knowing the root causes. The freedom of women to be involved in associations and NGOs and have access to decision making is essential to peace in any nation.

Other speakers in the session included Dr. Vera Baboun, the current mayor of Bethlehem and a lecturer at University in Bethlehem. She explained that women have the means to create a new comprehensive understanding of peace that includes completion between men and women, not competition. We need to first learn to speak truth to ourselves, and then speak truth to power. Though it is almost unimaginable, we can even make dignity flourish under occupation and transmit it to our children. Dr. Sonia Ramzii, former Head, Promotion of Cultural Heritage at UNESCO defined the prerequisites for Culture of Peace. Ambassador Mervat El-Tallawy, Chair of the Egyptian Council of Women and former Minister of Social Affairs gave a clear snapshot of the current situation in the Arab world, especially as it concerns women. She reminded all present to collect and refer to statistics as a powerful tool and encouraged the many young women to engage themselves publicly and politically.

Session two, Women's Empowerment and Culture of Peace in the Middle East and North Africa Region was chaired by Ms. Nada Abdallah, expert from the UN Residents Coordinating Office in Lebanon. Judith Karp, Former Deputy Attorney General in Israel and Former Vice Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child was the first speaker. She explained the role of human dignity in the framework of a culture of peace. It is an everyday aspect of life, the nucleus of the spirituality of being a human being, not just a legalistic terminology. Other speakers include Professor Hayal Koksal, who lectures on nonviolence in education and curriculum development in Turkey at various universities, teaching students and trainers to become bridge-builders with clear strategies toward peace.

Fatemeh Al Acrough, a specialist at the Ministry of Higher Education in Kuwait, the final speaker of the session, referred to the role of Eleanor Roosevelt at the time of the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



Many governments have drawn from the UDHR to develop their own constitutions. Kuwaiti women only gained their rights in 2005, but since then there have been serious steps to implement. In May of this year, the Kuwaiti government passed a law to coordinate everything according to the international human rights framework. "It is a part of our culture; however, to raise our families believing

17th MEW contd. on pg. 12

## At the UN in Geneva ...

### Because Women's Rights are Important! The Power of Empowered Women

February 26, 2013 - Palais des Nations, Geneva

By *Viktória Neméth*



During the 23rd Session of the Human Rights Council, a side event entitled, *Because Women's Rights are Important: The Power of Empowered Women* attracted many participants. The first speaker and sole male presenter at the event was Kassym – Jomart Tokayev, the Director-General of the United Nations Office in Geneva. He stated his belief that in many areas women work better than men. They are more dedicated to their work and as professionals they are more reasonable. Supporting women is more than a good idea, it is necessary for development. Attaining gender equality will have an enormous positive effect on the economy.

The second speaker, Navi Pillay, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights also contended that gender equality stands in strong relation to economic development. Mervat El-Tallawy, former Ambassador and Chairwoman of the National Council of Women in Egypt, described how much she had wanted to attend

university when she was a youth. Even though her father was against the idea, she did not give up the fight until she enrolled. Her message is that a woman's voice can be strong and that basic human rights should not be considered a gift from the government.

Barbara Hendricks, famed soprano and Honorary Lifetime Goodwill Ambassador, UNHCR emphasized the way she handled her life as a refugee in a male dominated world. She faced segregation in restaurants and hospitals but these experiences only made her stronger. Ms. Hendricks expressed belief in the enormous power of education to change lives and went on to state that women from around the world should fight for access to education and other rights. Her advice to everyone was to learn from the success stories of other women and never give up!

The personal history of Livia Jaroka, a member of the European Parliament, was especially inspiring. Her father, who is of Roma origin, always gave her positive feedback about her cultural heritage and identity. It made her realize that even if there are multiple

**Empowered Women, contd. on pg. 8**

### India Women's Challenges: Security, Rights, Empowerment & Equality

Human Rights Council WFP Side Event

June 3, 2013 - Geneva

By *Carolyn Handschin*

In June of each year, the Human Rights Council (HRC) designates one full day to discussion of the rights of women and girls. NGOs use this period to provide information to governments and raise relevant issues that will influence HRC decisions by submitting oral or written statements, organizing side events and informal consultations.

With this goal in mind, following the brutal rape in New Delhi, India in December 2012 and the global outcry around issues of violence against women and the impunity related to them, Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI), Women's UN Report Network (WUNRN) and the Gramya Resource Center held a side event on India Women's Challenges for Security, Rights, Empowerment & Equality. Ms. Carolyn Handschin, Session Chair and Director of the WFWPI UN Office, began by explaining the event's purpose: provide local knowledge on the topic, shed light on prevention and support continued prioritization of these issues on the human rights agenda. Ms. Rasheed Manjoo, Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women had been invited to participate as a panelist. As she had to present her report that same day to the Human Rights Council, she sent her encouragement to the organizers for a good outcome for the important issue being

discussed. She had written that following her recent mission to India, she concluded that the failure to prevent these violations in India lies with the inability or unwillingness to "acknowledge or address the core structural causes of violence against women".

The first speaker was Dr. Anvi Amin, WHO, World Health Organization, Technical Officer, Department of Gender & Women's Health who addressed violence against women as a health issue, including sexual, physical and emotional violence. She identified the effects on the families of women who have been abused, noting the high instance of intimate partner abuse, and the dramatic spin off to social and



economic areas. In her very insightful power-point presentation, she outlined a WHO ten country study that recommended preventive measures for each risk factor for intimate partner violence, while noting that gender inequality remains a root cause. She called

## ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs

### Segment 2013

July 17, 2013 - UN HQ, Geneva


By *Yvonne Von Stedynk*

At the recent session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) the Humanitarian Affairs segment had a considerable impact on the overall agenda. First and foremost, launching the tenth annual Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA) Report 2013, presented the most comprehensive assessment of international humanitarian response of international financing, allocated to humanitarian situations to date. The report lists how this response has measured up to the scale of global humanitarian crises and reflects on the timeliness of such investments, answering questions about the way the world finances respond to crisis and vulnerability including who provides it, where does it go, how and by whom does it get there.

In-focus chapters cover Turkey as a responder, the recent role of the Gulf States, as well as funding of the current Syria crisis and an analysis of the response to the Horn of Africa crisis; an area which is projected to be particularly exposed to the negative impacts of climate change.

Containing extensive data and analysis and building on previous GHA reports, the report is fundamental to understanding the broad picture of global humanitarian assistance, from experts working in the humanitarian sector to policy and media professionals, as well as beneficiaries and taxpayers.

The GHA program is an activity of the nonprofit development initiative's Poverty Research based in Bristol, UK and Nairobi, Kenya, an independent organization. It sees improving aid effectiveness as part of the elimination of absolute poverty by 2030.

During the Humanitarian Affairs segment, some of the most important actors in the humanitarian field also participated in special events, held outside conference sessions, when a number of the most important actors in the humanitarian field, UN agencies as well as NGOs, met and discussed common concerns such as the increasingly important issue of links between emergency assistance and development, demonstrated their various activities and shared their views on issues of particular interest, including the 2015 MDG agenda and beyond towards development, security and human rights for all. 

for provision of more educational material on violence prevention and improved evaluation of data related to its consequences.

Dr. Sreerupa Chaudhury, Chairperson of the Special Task Force on Rape, Trafficking & Violence against Women, established by the Indian government following the rape

**India Women, contd. on pg. 8**

# At the UN in Vienna ...

## Civil Society's Voice: 22nd Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention & Criminal Justice

April 22-26, 2013 - UN HQ Vienna, Austria

By Maria Idomir,

ACUNS representative to the UN, Vienna



This year's session of the Crime Commission was marked by a dynamic and substantive contribution of civil society. According to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 96 representatives from 38 NGOs attended the session. The main topic was environmental crime. In his introductory statement, Mr. Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of UNODC, stated, "With animal species teetering on extinction and forests being reduced, we need to quickly build a coordinated response to this crime." We believe that this invitation implies the participation of NGOs,

those usually doing the job on the ground.

However, a great number of other topics were brought to the attention of participants, including wildlife and forest crime; natural resources exploitation and violence; femicide; violence against children in the justice system; the revision of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners; and corruption. All together, 18 high-level side events were organized by NGOs, all well attended.

Also, there were opportunities to meet with UNODC senior staff members, including Mr. Fedotov. This was done within the background of a tradition established by the Vienna NGO Alliance on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Each year at the Crime Commission, NGO representatives join the

Executive Director of UNODC and the heads of UNODC Divisions in an interactive informal dialogue. Among the topics covered this year were: NGO participation, the 13th Crime Congress (Doha, 2015), correctional services versus health services, the inclusion of "access to justice" in the post-2015 agenda, the revision of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, femicide, death penalty for drug crimes, and offshore financial centers.

NGO representatives also met with the Chair of the 22nd session of the Commission, H.E. Ambassador Xolisa Mfundiso Mabhongo, who proved to be very sympathetic to the work of NGOs. The discussion focused not only on environmental crime. NGOs were also given the opportunity to share some of their concerns

**Crime Prevention, contd. on pg. 9**

## Round-Table Discussion: Is Prison an Answer to Juvenile Crime?

July 1, 2013 - UN HQ Vienna

By Dr. Max Edelbacher



The case of the 14-year old boy arrested on robbery charges in Vienna recently, who was raped by cell mates during pre-trial detention has brought to light shortcomings of the juvenile justice system in Austria. Massive media attention given to the case contributed to a heated debate on how to improve the response of the Austrian criminal justice system to detained juveniles. WFWPI, Academic Council on

the UN System (ACUNS) Vienna and Elternwerkstatt, convened an expert panel to present recommendations on the question: Is Prison an Answer to Criminal Behaviour of Juveniles? Speakers included President of the Vienna Regional Court for Criminal Cases, Mag. Friedrich Forsthuber; Hofrat Dr. Norbert Gerstberger, Judge & Chairman of the Austrian Youth Association of Judges; Dr. Christine Wehringer, Vice-President of Children's Liga, Vienna; Mag. Andrea Schuechner, Ludwig Boltzmann Human Rights Institute, and Ms. Estela-Maris Deon from the

Crime Prevention Section of UNODC. Max Edelbacher, representative of ACUNS Vienna, chaired.

UNODC crime prevention and criminal justice standards/norms and guidelines were distributed, including the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty, the UN Guidelines for Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency, the UN Guidelines for Children in the Criminal Justice System, a Manual for the Measurement of Juvenile Justice Indicators, a Crime Prevention Tool Kit, and a Handbook on Crime Prevention

**Juvenile Crime, contd. on pg. 9**

## A Story of Advocacy Success: The Femicide Resolution

By Dr. Michael Platzer

This is the fantastic story of a group of young women so outraged by recent media attention on unpunished rape and murder of women and girls that they managed to push a resolution on Taking Action Against Gender-related Killings through the UN General Assembly in less than 18 months – a record!

The journey started in April 2012, when a side event was organized by the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS) at the 21st session of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on the phenomenon of femicide, defined as the killing of a woman. The discussion was based on the 2011 Global Study on Homicide, published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). A small group met concurrently to draft a resolution which remains substantially nearly identical to the version expected to be passed by the UN at its 68th session this year.

This resolution was shared with Member States, particularly Latin American states which have undertaken significant efforts to investigate and prosecute the crime of 'femicidio' (or 'feminicidio', as it is called in Mexico). The Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Entity

for Gender Equality (UN Women), academia and NGOs concerned with the many forms of these horrendous crimes.

A group of women ambassadors was convened by the Austrian Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Vienna to strategize and secure approval for a resolution on femicide from their capitals. Argentina, Chile, El Salvador, Peru, Guatemala, Italy, Kazakhstan, Korea, Nigeria, Norway, Philippines, Slovenia, South Africa, Switzerland and Thailand made early commitments to the campaign.

In November 2012, an international symposium was held in Vienna on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. Encouraged by the engagement of a group of women Ambassadors, the Vienna Declaration on Femicide was agreed upon, calling for UN agencies, governmental institutions and NGOs to share successful practices to combat these murders. The Vienna Declaration on Femicide also calls for the creation of a platform where lawyers, prosecutors, judges, law enforcement officials, academics, feminists, NGOs, UN agencies, governmental and inter-governmental institutions, and other relevant actors could share expertise and good practices, in order to transfer knowledge across regions. The Vienna

Declaration on Femicide is based on the forms of femicide identified by the Office of the the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, Ms. Rashida Manjoo, in her 2012 report on the causes and consequences of violence against women. In addition to participants at the symposium, the Vienna Declaration on Femicide was signed by a number of Member States, among them Austria, Italy, Peru, Philippines, Slovenia and Norway.

Meetings and lectures for students on femicide were organized at the University of Vienna. Films were shown in local cinemas. A publication was prepared containing the most important speeches from these events, as well as the outcome document of the 57th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW, March 2013).

Youth were engaged during the entire process, including the lobbying of delegations of Member States during the 57th session of the CSW. The most supportive were the Ambassadors of Brazil, El Salvador, Egypt, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, and Switzerland. A luncheon was organized by Dr. Karen Burke, to which Ms. Ban Soon-taek (the wife of Secretary General Ban Ki-moon), Ms. Erica Jong (author of "Fear of Flying"), Ms.

**Femicide Resolution, contd. on pg. 9**

# Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Snapshots of WFP International Service Projects related to the Goals



## Microcredit



Jordan - Loan recipient started her grocery store

## Vocational Training



Rwanda – Cooking Class at The New Hope Technical Institute

## School Lunch



Kenya – Handow Secondary School providing lunch



## Support for Primary Education Construction of Primary School



Equatorial Guinea - Motoko Shiroma Kindergarten and Elementary School



Guinea Bissau - Sunac Elementary School

## Management of Primary School



Ethiopia - One Hope Garden

## Financial Support for Schooling Foster Parents Program



One-on-one support system between a foster parent and a foster child

## Scholarship Program



Sri Lanka - Japanese volunteer presenting scholarship

## Literacy Education



Bangladesh - Literacy Class



## Support for Secondary Education Construction of Secondary School



Mozambique - Sun of Mozambique Secondary School



Kenya - Handow Secondary School



Since 1994, WFPW Japan has been dispatching volunteers to countries throughout the world. WFPW is committed to the achievement of freedom from poverty, as well as to implementing development cooperation activities based on local needs. Since the year 2000, we have sought to contribute through its activities to the attainment of the UN MDGs, which is a universal goal of the international community in the 21st century.

Detailed report available as the “WFPW Biennial Report 2011-2012” at [www.wfpw.org/Biennial Report 2012](http://www.wfpw.org/Biennial Report 2012)

4  
  
**REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY**

### Nutrition Guidance in Zambia




The project promotes protein intake, essential for children's growth but lacking in Zambia through soy flour.

5  
  
**IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH**

### Mobile Clinics



Niger - Health checkups for pregnant Women in villages with no doctors


6  
  
**COMBAT HIV / AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES**

### AIDS Preventive Education




Ghana
Belarus



### Malaria Prevention



Niger – Distribution of mosquito nets and guidance about malaria prevention

7  
  
**ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

### Water Project in Kenya

At the Handow Secondary School in Kenya, a private water-supply system including a 5,000-liter tank and 2 water stations with 12 faucets each were built with Japanese youth volunteers in 2012. This water project has contributed in maintaining the students' health through access to clean water, keeping the school clean and has freed the students from the time and effort of water-drawing labor.

8  
  
**A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT**

### Medicine Boxes

Making medicine available in doctorless villages of Niger




Villagers can buy medicines cheaper from this box than anywhere else
Japanese volunteers deliver medicines every year

### Computer Classes for Women



Jordan - WFPW Training Center

## Post-2015, contd from pg. 2

Fourth World Research Director, who expressed two observations. First, the situation for the poor remains the same everywhere. They are discriminated against on many levels. Their human rights are systematically violated. They are forced to move from place to place to make way for development projects that often seek to help them. The second observation, which is far more complex, involves funding and implementation of projects. Governments and corporate sponsors focus on statistics and measurable outcomes. Many people suffering from extreme poverty live outside of the measurable statistics so are not regularly helped by large scale projects. So to mitigate this, people living in extreme poverty should be considered as partners when developing such programs.

The second Panel, Engaging People Living in Poverty in the Post-2015 Process and Learning from Participatory Research, was Co-chaired by H.E. Ambassador Román-Morey, Permanent Representative of Peru to the UN and H.E. Mr. Libran N. Cabactulan, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Philippines to the UN. The first speaker, grassroots activist Ms. Sandrine Dandjinou of Burkina Faso emphasized the importance of education to lift subsequent generations from poverty. Ms. Andrée Defaux, representing Luttés, Solidarités et Travail of Belgium spoke of political partnership and defining the root causes of poverty. Dr. Donna Haig Friedman, Director, Center for Social Policy from University of Massachusetts at Boston suggested the most daunting task is for policy makers to share power with those immersed in poverty.

The most touching moment of the day came when Mr. Juan Carlos Baltazar of Bolivia spoke sincerely about his personal experience living day to day in extreme poverty. He expressed the following points:

- Even if basic education is free, other expenses such as parents association fees prevent children from going to school.
- It is also important to teach native languages and the history of all peoples in classrooms.
- Quality health care and services are costly.
- When they do see a doctor, the doctor is often disrespectful and humiliating.
- There is a need for decent work and for workers to learn their rights. Those with money often take advantage of those without money.

Through tears he concluded; "I do not want to be poor anymore, let's keep trying to help people not to be poor anymore!"

Mr. Danny Burns, Co-Director of Participate passionately emphasized the need to hear the stories of the poor in order to adequately address the problems they are experiencing. H.E. Mr. Libran N. Cabactulan also underlined the importance of understanding the lives and challenges of those experiencing extreme poverty.

The concluding session was chaired by H.E. Mr. Jean-François Régis Zinsou, Permanent Representative of the Mission of the Republic of Benin to the UN. Mr. Ivan Šimonovi, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, highlighted five points that are vital to consider when developing the Post-2015 agenda:

- The new development agenda must include economic and social rights.
- It should be universally applicable and ensure equality.
- There is a need to empower the most marginalized through a holistic understanding of poverty.
- Accountability measures are needed to ensure credibility.
- And lastly, the private sector and business must be subject to adequate regulations and penalties when rights are violated.

Mr. Olav Kjørven, Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP added that \$1.25 per day is much too low to sustain a healthy individual. While the MDGs dealt with many issues in a general sense, more specific attention needs to be given to inequalities and the quality of support offered. The final speaker, Ms. Isabelle Pypaert-Perrin, Director General, International Movement ATD Fourth World, prompted us to recall that the Post-2015 agenda must be universal, heavily based on human rights and should not leave anyone behind.

## MDGs, contd from pg. 2

In regard to women's issues, linkages are missing. Input is missing. When women are not at the table their issues are not taken into account nor their rights addressed. Gender equality is an accelerator. The caste system should be addressed; in particular, the plight of widows must be addressed.

In the area of health, particularly in developing countries, we need resources and development of medicine and vaccines, mass vaccination campaigns, HIV programs, mental health and trauma healing particularly in developing countries.

With the different views offered, the session ended on a hopeful note for the future achievement of the MDGs.

## Women Empowered, contd from pg. 4

discriminations confronting us each day, one must not give in to the hopelessness of degrading stereotyping or stop believing in the inherent dignity to be found in all people and cultures. No one can take that away. Shabana Basicj, Founder of the School of Leadership in Afghanistan (SOLA), emphasized that education, in her experience, is the only way toward real peace. But, she added, this clearly also means that education must be available for girls and women. Ms. Basicj personally experienced life when it was illegal to go out of the house. During that time she attended a secret school.

When she was eventually able to attend public school, she felt energized, liberated. The full support from her parents gave her even more motivation.

In conclusion, these women with very diverse upbringings and life experiences in completely different situations, all agree that access to quality education is the key to the full enjoyment of basic human rights. Although it may seem self evident to us here at the United Nations in the 21st Century, in many parts of the world, girls and women do not have the possibility of attending school. This impedes their access to a host of basic rights. It is so important to remain vigilant.

## India Women, contd from pg. 4

incident, was the second panelist. In addition, she is the President of WFWP for India and South Asia. After providing an overview of the situation and her work in India, with references made to efforts by the Indian government's legal framework for protection of women, she admitted that the real crisis is one of ethics and morality. How is it so that in a culture that promotes family values so proudly, the root cause of these shocking incidents can so often, if not always, be traced back to imbalances in the family? Just a week earlier, while visiting households, she met a man who had raped an eight month old baby. In another home, she met a young man who had raped his 87 year old grandmother. What is polluting the minds of people? In these interviews that Dr Chaudhury had conducted in prisons, she described how in each case, the perpetrators suffered so much violence from their own parents, within their communities, even prostitution within their own households. The reference point to distinguish right and wrong had become entirely twisted. However, she stressed, therein lies hope as well. Women as mothers in every family have a greater accountability and influence than is usually claimed. How can a good bonding relationship at home guide boys and girls to a healthy mind and be an incentive to be accountable to parents and society?

Ms. Ramya Kudekallu, World YWCA Advocate and lawyer from Bangalore was the next presenter, and contributed very valuable information about the situation of Indian girls and women. She described a story of a woman gang raped and left without any assistance as if it was her fault. Ms. Kudekalla requested responsibility and integrity of her leaders, expressing disdain about flippant statements by political or religious leaders concerning the attire of sexually assaulted women, their mental state, etc. There is little need to pass further legislation, but enforcement and implementation of existing laws is required. She referred to the history of India where women enjoyed an equal status with men, suggesting this as a future possibility. There is a current need to instill leadership capacity in young

India Women, contd. on pg. 9




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### **India Women, contd from pg. 8**

women. Although it may not make a dramatic difference in the instance of rapes, surely leadership capacity development for young women will impact what can be accomplished in the long run. "These are real atrocities; these are real women with real pain."

Ms. Lois A. Herman, Coordinator of Women's UN Report Network, was the final speaker. She presented a PowerPoint that told a vivid story of women in India through photos. She relayed details of the women's stories as if she knew them personally, as well as instilled a wealth of information about conventions and ongoing legal processes. Very much convinced about the effectiveness of grassroots efforts by women, she spoke directly to young activists in the audience who were visiting the Human Rights Council from India, concerning specific actions to be taken toward the United Nations to make their voices heard. The manner in which to write reports to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the HRC or to the Committees set up to monitor the HR Conventions may be found on the Office of the High Commissioner for HR website and can be very effective. She concluded by saying that we need to put all our efforts together to influence behavioral change.

A statement by Dr. V. Rukmini Rao & Dr. Lynette Dumble of the Gramya Resource Center, Hyderabad on Social & Political Economies of Femicide in Andhra Pradesh, co-sponsors to the panel, was provided in absentia.

Due to the extensive expertise and experience found among participants, discussion continued following the panelists' presentations. Representatives from government missions, UN entities and NGOs participated in the side event which was closed with a short statement by the Canadian mission on the HRC Resolution on sexual violence that is currently being tabled. 

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### **Juvenile Crime, contd from pg. 5**

Guidelines along with other relevant UN documents and reports.

Judge Gerstberger explained due to the victimization of the 14 year-old boy, the Austrian Ministry of Justice created a taskforce to solve problems faced by detained juveniles. Previous success stories indicate that supervised homes are a viable alternative to pre-trial detention. Judge Gerstberger pointed out the value of using both criminal and family law in juvenile cases.


Mag. Forsthuber remarked that in many countries, pre-trial detention conditions are worse than post sentence. He proposed a three-step plan to change pre-trial detention conditions: place as many youth in supervised homes as possible, use pre-trial detention only for flight risks and danger of repetition, hold trials quickly, shortening pre-trial detention. Many relevant projects are not costly but still cannot be implemented due to lack of financial

resources. Forsthuber explained alternatives to imprisonment used in 60% of cases including community service, pre-trial probation, and court orders, though only appropriate for minor offenses.

Prof. Shantu Watt suggested sensitizing trainings for police and judges (1) on psychological assessment of juveniles before deciding on pre-trial detention and (2) on the conditions of pre-trial detention. He gave examples of treatment of juvenile suspects in the UK. Community service programs, anger management and self-esteem programs as well as boot camps are proven successful. They offer a psychological module and a structured framework that juveniles can use in day to day life.

In Austria, 60-70% of detained juveniles are not Austrians. This speaks to a failed refugee policy. Some refugees who cannot get a work permit end up dealing drugs to make a living. They cannot be transferred to another country or deported since many have no documents to reveal their origin. Young Austrians arrested for drugs, can wait at home for trial to take place, foreign juveniles are secured in pre-trial detention to wait for trial.

Early prevention measures such as parenting and family skills programs are crucial to prevent crime. Dr. Christine Wehringer explained the goals of Children's Liga and illustrated two programs: support for young couples expecting a child and assistance for immigrant women to interact with health authorities.

Ms. Estela-Maris Deon elaborated on UN guiding principles for treatment of detained juveniles. UNICEF statistics estimate 1.5 million juveniles in pre-detention worldwide. Six per cent are under age fifteen. Ms. Deon read Principle 7 of the 2008 Guidance from the Secretary General on the UN Approach to Justice for Children: Preventing conflict with the law is a crucial element of any juvenile justice policy. Civil society must hold judges accountable, offer foster education programs, and encourage participation of youth in developing legislation for juveniles and in protecting rights of child witnesses and victims. A resolution for model strategies and practical measures on elimination of violence against children in crime prevention and criminal justice was adopted at the 22nd session of the Crime Commission and will be presented to the Third Committee of the General Assembly this autumn. 

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### **Femicide Resolution, contd from pg. 5**

Muna Rihani (organizer of the Woman's Day March), Ambassadors of Brazil, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, and Monaco attended. They pledged their support to include the language, "killing of women and girls" in the outcome document of the Commission on the Status of Women.


NGOs were very active and organized a number of high-level side events. Among them, of great interest was the lunch meeting on femicide organized by WFWPI UN Office in Vienna. The

Special Rapporteur on violence against women, Ms. Rashida Manjoo, organized a side event on Gender related killings of women and men.

Also in March and in preparation for the session of the Crime Commission, WFWPI, ACUNS Vienna, UPF, and Elternwerkstatt organized the conference, Leadership Challenges of the 21st Century: The Prevention of Violence against Women and Femicide featured in a separate article in this newsletter.

As the session of the Crime Commission approached, it remained a cliff-hanger whether the resolution would be tabled at the Crime Commission or directly at the 68th session of the GA (beginning September 2013). Reservations arose from the fact that at the UN Offices in Vienna, all decisions are based on the so-called "Vienna consensus".

Given the sensitive nature of the topic, it was a very delicate balance to convince governments, but here the young women again displayed their resolve. ACUNS representatives spoke with key sponsors and finally Argentina agreed to table the resolution. The Ambassador of Thailand, HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol, decided to chair the informal negotiations on the text. Eventually co-sponsored by 29 Member States and the EU, the resolution will be put forward for adoption to the UN General Assembly's Committee on Social, Economic and Cultural Affairs (the Third Committee) in September. Under the patronage of HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol of Thailand, ACUNS Vienna is organizing a high-level panel on femicide on October 18 in NY.


(Dr. Michael Platzer is the Chair of the Vienna NGO Alliance on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Head of the Academic Council on the UN Liaison Office in Vienna) 

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### **Crime Prevention, contd from pg. 5**

and make suggestions on how civil society could contribute more to the work of UNODC.

The statements made by NGOs, as well as all the documentation relevant to the 22nd session of the Crime Commission, including the report of the session are available here: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/session/22.html>.

All in all, the session was quite substantive. This may have something to do with the specific topic that was chosen. Next year's session will focus on international cooperation. It is our hope that the discussions will be meaningful and will not be limited to declarations on what should be done. Significant as these may be, action in all areas needs to be taken. We also hope that the number and variety of NGOs will increase, in preparation for the Civil Society Forum to be organized in Doha, before the Crime Congress, on the theme of Civil Society Contributions to Crime Prevention and Justice. 

## ECOSOC Adopts Historic Resolution: Gender Mainstreaming & System-wide Coherence

July 24, 2013 - Geneva

By Carolyn Handschin

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) adopted a resolution on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programs in the United Nations system during the final week of the annual sessions that were being held in Geneva. The resolution (E/2013/L.14), requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its substantive session in 2014 a report on the implementation of the resolution, including, importantly, accountability and progress made in the implementation of the innovative System-wide Action Plan.

Among the many events that took place during the ECOSOC sessions leading up to the historic vote, attended by the WFWPI advocacy team, was an important panel on “Making the United Nations System Accountable for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: Progress, Gaps and Challenges”. In his opening remarks, Martin Sajdik, Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council, remarked that the System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women was a real milestone. Other speakers included Nicole Ameline, Chairperson of the Committee

on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and Amanda Khozi Mukwashi, Chief, Volunteer Knowledge and Innovation, United Nations Volunteers, who emphasized significant link between gender and volunteerism. Flavia Pansieri, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, recalled that it was almost 20 years since the famous “human rights are women’s rights and women’s rights are human rights” speech at the United Nations World Conference on Women in Beijing. It is very fitting that this resolution comes now.

**Lakshmi Puri**, Acting Head of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), Moderator of the panel, introduced the Report of the Secretary-General on “Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective into all Policies and Programs in the United Nations System”. She explained that the report included data from 55 United Nations entities, reporting for the first time on progress made under the United Nations System-wide Action Plan and that it was a valuable act of introspection. She described how standards of gender mainstreaming had been harmonized within



ECOSOC WFWPI Team 2013 - Geneva

the UN system over the last 3 years. Gender focal points had been appointed in every entity and duty station. It is a success story of United Nations inter-agency collaboration that is already being reproduced. Reaching the 2017 target globally, however, will require consistent monitoring and widespread engagement. Events such as this panel, widely attended by governments, UN bodies and NGO’s, are a valuable way to propagate information and to keep the momentum up.



### **Prevention of Violence, contd from pg. 1**

femicide, defined as murder of a woman. She emphasized that it is not an isolated incident, but the final stage of continuous violence. The biggest challenge is that this violence is embedded in our culture and therefore, to some degree, accepted.

**Mrs. Joana Adesuwa Reiterer**, president and founder of the NGO, Exit based in Vienna, gave her outlook on femicide based on her direct contact with victims and survivors of human trafficking, especially from Nigeria, her native country. She explained how many of these young girls become victims of sexual trafficking out of hope for a better future when they are in a state of poverty, not just financially, but psychologically as well, trusting the promises of those who should not be trusted. Many organizations have tried to help these psychologically damaged young women, but

often in return for a name and a testimony. A big difficulty in helping them reintegrate into society lies in their lack of education. This is why Mrs. Reiterer initiated a production facility that provides opportunities for these young women to develop their craftsmanship and help them heal through creative therapy.

The third speaker was **Mag. Maria Neuberger Schmidt**, president and founder of Parents Workshop in Vienna. She is dedicated to developing and disseminating parenting tips. She emphasized the importance of having authority as parents, but without violence. She then spoke of finding a balanced relationship between men and women and the importance of communication.

The first session concluded with **Mrs. Zena Eggough**, UPF UN Liaison, who started with a reflective reading. She emphasized the dignity of human beings as part of one human family,



children of one God with a hope of bringing an end to the atrocities against women worldwide.

During the break, the film, “It’s a Girl” was shown.

### **Session II: Leadership Challenges to the Prevention of Violence against Women and Femicide**

The moderator of this session, **HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol**, Ambassador of Thailand to Austria contributed thoughtfully after each speaker, and called for an end to impunity.

The first speaker was **Dr. Michael Platzer**, Chairman of Vienna NGO Alliance on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. He claimed that each state must use all possible means to end impunity against violence against women and that domestic abuse is a crime which must be addressed. He introduced the ACUNS paper on femicide and asked for support.

**Dr. Zhannat Konsumkamedova**, Expert on HIV/AIDS Prevention & CE Division, UNODC began by stating that according to



Left to right: Panel I - Ms. Claire Laurent, ACUNS Femicide Project Coordinator, Mrs. Zena Eggough, UPF UN Liaison, H. E. Maria Oyeyinka Laose, the Ambassador of Nigeria, Dr. Shantu Watt, Vice President of the United Nations Women’s Guild (UNWG), Dr. Maria Riehl, WFWPI UN Representative, Vienna, Mrs. Joana Adesuwa Reiterer, President and Founder of EXIT, Mag. Maria Neuberger Schmidt, President & Founder of Parents Workshop, Mrs. Seiko Lee, Soprano

**Prevention of Violence, contd. on pg. 12**

# WFWPI Honors Mrs. Motoko Sugiyama

## Long time UN Office Director Retires, Leadership Transitions

Summer 2013 - New York

By Kristi L. Mas

After twenty one years of dedicated service to WFWPI, Mrs. Motoko Sugiyama retired from her position as Vice President of WFWP International and as Director of the WFWPI UN Office, effective June 1, 2013. Her career included Founding President of WFWP Japan from 1992 to 1998. Mrs. Sugiyama's contributions to this organization have been invaluable and beyond measure. She will continue to serve as WFWP International Advisor. Mrs. Sugiyama is excited to enjoy life and spend time with her husband, Mr. Takashi Sugiyama, their four children and three grandchildren.

Appointed the first President of WFWP Japan in 1992 by WFWPI founders, Rev. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon, Mrs. Sugiyama stated that her goal was simply, "To make a very good women's organization." Because of the founding principles of WFWP, she knew she could rely on the women of WFWP and their unique organizing abilities to achieve successful service projects.

In 1994, the founders requested that WFWP Japan send 1600 volunteers throughout the world to 160 countries and dedicate their efforts to serving these nations. Mrs. Sugiyama guided the volunteers to conduct needs assessments and begin planning and initiating service projects that would use the volunteers' expertise while meeting some of the most dire needs of the people. As a grass roots organization with no government funding, WFWP was responsible for raising all the money needed to fund their many projects. Mrs. Sugiyama directed a network of "sisterhood relationships" between 47 Japanese prefectures and the 160 countries. This systematic effort gave rise to the cherished and acclaimed WFWP International Service Projects.

During travels to the Middle East, Mrs. Sugiyama envisioned that WFWP Japan had the potential to make a real difference in conditions there. This vision led to launching of the Women's Conference for Peace in the Middle East in 1997 in Istanbul, Turkey as a means for women to come together for dialog and collaboration across ideological and religious boundaries. A conference has convened diverse women leaders from across the Middle East every year since its inception, exemplifying the WFWP tradition of dedication and consistency.

Thanks to the foresight and persistence of Mrs. Sugiyama, Japanese members and the work of a burgeoning WFWP movement around the world, in 1997 WFWPI achieved General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC).

Mrs. Sugiyama was appointed to the responsibility of developing United Nations

relations for WFWPI in 1998 and opened the WFWPI UN Office in New York. She has been working since that time as Director of UN Office and Chief Administrator of WFWPI. In this capacity, she developed numerous programs and conferences in partnership with the UN toward achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), including hosting the UN Forum on Eradication of Poverty on several occasions and side events and parallel events for NGO/DPI Conferences, Commission on the Status of Women, ECOSOC High Level Segment and others. Thanks to these unflagging efforts, continued development of the international service projects and countless events, projects and advisory statements submitted that align with UN priorities and UN special events by WFWP members worldwide, WFWPI's general consultative status has been renewed consistently every four years. This status is shared by only 141 other NGOs out of a total of more than 3200 in consultative status with the United Nations. Mrs. Sugiyama deserves tremendous credit for her leadership in facilitating this extensive foundation and fostering participation of WFWPI members around the world in the work of the United Nations. Thank you, Mrs. Sugiyama!

Now with Mrs. Sugiyama's retirement, Deputy Director Carolyn Handschin will serve as Director of the WFWPI UN Office. She will continue to work out of the Geneva WFWPUN Office. She has been the permanent representative for several international NGOs at the UN since 1993. Since 1998, Carolyn has led the WFWPI advocacy team at the UN in Geneva, has been active at the Human Rights Council (HRC) and, to a lesser extent, CEDAW (Committee on the Elimination of Violence against Women) and other international organizations based in Geneva.

Under Carolyn's leadership, the WFWP Office in Geneva has been lobbying governments and UN entities, often in cooperation with other NGOs on issues under consideration at the HRC, as well as been actively involved in NGO Committees. Many statements have been submitted and conferences and side events organized on issues related to the promotion and protection of women's rights and empowerment, the role of education in peace and security, women's contribution to peace in the Middle East and engagement of youth and family in peacebuilding. Living in Lausanne, Switzerland, with her husband, Heiner Handschin, Carolyn is the mother of seven children and a proud grandmother of three granddaughters.



Former President of WFWP, USA (1999 to 2010), Mrs. Alexa Ward will now serve as Deputy Director, WFWPI UN Offices, as well as Director of the WFWPI UN Office in New York and the Chief Administrative Officer. Mrs. Ward will continue as an advisor to WFWP, International for North America. During her tenure as president of WFWP, USA, Alexa established several initiatives, including Women of Faith, the Marriage and Family Initiative, and the Schools of Africa Project. She led delegations of American women on special peace trips to the Holy Land, China, and North Korea. She lives in Bridgeport, Connecticut, with her husband Dr. Thomas Ward. They have one daughter and three sons.

WFWP USA held an afternoon reception to honor Mrs. Sugiyama on June 29th in Tarrytown, NY. Mrs. Alexa Ward expressed her eagerness to continue the achievements of WFWPI, and offered her sincere appreciation of Mrs. Sugiyama's trail blazing efforts.

**Transition, contd. on pg. 12**

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### 17th MEW, contd from pg. 3

that values taught and lived well at home will be our surest protection.”

Sessions continued over two days. Themes included, Challenging the Culture of Peace: Education for Universal Values and Promoting the Culture of Peace: The Future. Speakers included representatives of UN Agencies, governments, academia, human rights institutions and civil society organizations. Reports were made to the conference about ongoing projects in the Middle East, born of this conference over the years.

Drawing from the conclusions of the conference, especially the interactive working groups, the Paris Communiqué was issued.

“In light of the recent developments and times of uncertainty in the Middle East, witnessing a real regression in human rights and a growing alienation and marginalization of women, participants came to realize that change can only happen from within, starting with shedding victimization and regaining their dignity and self-empowerment, pre-requisites to foster a culture of peace.

To guide them in this process, the participants identified the following steps:

1. Creating solidarity among women through networking, sharing success stories and prevalent obstacles, promoting role models through advocacy, capacity building, and use of social media.

2. Engaging men and youth to end a culture of violence.

3. Calling on women to reclaim their position in the socio-economic and political spheres and engage with men in peace building and development.

4. Calling on mothers to realize their full potential as agents of peace; protecting their families, preventing radicalization, transmitting values to empower their children to become responsible citizens and contributors to a culture of peace for the equal enjoyment of all.

5. Creating programs together with other NGOs, government or local UN bodies that provide opportunities for youth to participate actively in protecting sites of cultural and religious value, including those of other faiths and cultures; full report at [wfwp.org](http://wfwp.org)



### Prevention of Violence, contd from pg. 10

the World Health Organization, 34 million people were living with HIV worldwide as of 2011. She emphasized the importance of empowering women in order to bring HIV and drug abuse to an end.

**Mrs. Carolyn Handschin**, Director of WFWP International UN Office encouraged women to take leadership roles, shedding victimhood and making advocacy a lifestyle. She pointed out several barriers which prevent women from taking such roles: lack of conviction, lack of skills or tools. She mentioned WFWP projects to help eradicate female genital mutilation in areas of Africa by empowering women to connect their local knowledge to the global human rights agenda. Cooperation between men and women in a family unit plays a vital role in showing a vision and substantive enforcement for a culture of peace.

**H. E. Ayoob M. Erfani** gave a brief outlook on the role of women in Afghanistan over the past century. In 1920, women of Afghanistan enjoyed equality between men and women to some degree. Today many women are unaware of the religious and political rights they are entitled to. Recently, commemorating the day CEDAW was ratified; President Karzai called on religious scholars and community leaders in the country to help preach against domestic violence as a social menace contradictory to human rights and Islamic values. President Karzai called on mass media, particularly radio, to broadcast programs that communicate messages against domestic violence and discrimination against women. Mr. Erfani emphasized the need for full participation of Afghan women to bring real change.

Contributions of the prominent speakers showed many different perspectives surrounding violence against women, resulting in a very successful, insightful conference. The conference called for a world free of violence and an end to impunity towards femicide and violence against women.



### Transition, contd from pg. 10

Numerous WFWP groups showered Mrs. Sugiyama with bouquets and gifts. She shared highlights of her fruitful career with WFWPI, including memories of her personal relationship with former President of the United States, George H. W. Bush, and his wife, Barbara Bush.

In closing, Bonnie Berry, WFWPI UN Representative, summed up the feelings of all in attendance: “Words cannot adequately convey the depth of my respect, admiration and affection for you. It has been an incredible privilege and honor to be a member of your WFWP UN office team for more than a decade. You will have time now to rest, take care of your health and enjoy your grandchildren. But please don't be a stranger to WFWP International. Your wisdom and experience are needed!”

The worldwide membership of WFWP sends their deepest thanks and best wishes to our dear sister, Mrs. Motoko Sugiyama, on her retirement. To send Mrs. Sugiyama a personal message, please contact her via email to [motokosugiyama@gmail.com](mailto:motokosugiyama@gmail.com).



### Upcoming Events

- ❖ Sep. 9-27 24th Human Rights Council & Social Forum
- ❖ Sep. 23 68th Session of UN General Assembly Opening Session
- ❖ Sep. 30 - Oct. 18 56th Session of CEDAW
- ❖ Oct. 7-10 WFWP Int'l Leaders Conference in London
- ❖ Oct. 16 World Food Day
- ❖ Oct. 17 International Day of Eradication of Poverty
- ❖ 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. 10-21 58th Commission on the Status of Women