



# Women's

## Federation for World Peace International

United Nations Office Newsletter

Spring 2013

NGO CSW Parallel Event: WFWPI Forum & Luncheon  
**Women Standing Up to Violence:  
Finding Ways Through with Hope and Connections**  
March 4, 2013 ~ Armenian Convention Center, New York City



By *Melissa Gontijo*

Speakers:

Lisa Carol Williams—Founder & President, Circle of Friends and Living Water for Girls, USA

Abaynesh Asrat—Founder, President & CEO, Nation to Nation Networking, Ethiopia  
Dana C. Jack—Professor, Western Washington University, Advisor to Justice for All, Nepal  
Sreerupa Mitra Chaudhury—Chairperson of the Nat'l Institute for Gender Justice, India  
Moderator—**Bonnie Berry**, UN Representative, WFWP International



The Armenian Convention Center in New York attracted fresh faces in anticipation of inspiring talks from four expert panelists. The event served as a forum for the panelists to share stories, enlighten us and describe the seriousness of violence against women. The room was full with 200 participants.

As the panelists each spoke from the podium, audience members listened to the harsh statistics on violence against women. Personal connections to violence, visual presentations, passionate step by step suggestions for change,

and all the issues at hand in various parts of the world were communicated to emphasize the themes connection and hope.

Introducing the first guest speaker **Lisa Williams** to the stage, Bonnie Berry, explained Mrs. Williams' tremendous achievements warmly. Through her organization, Living Water for Girls, she is working with young women and girls who have survived violence, human sex trafficking and prostitution, giving so many girls a voice and hope. After citing the UN's definition of violence against women, she listed several statistics to emphasize the growing threats against women. Mrs. Williams confidently believes that the scope of the problem in fact indicates a war against women.



While trying to find solutions to combat sex trafficking against women, she reminds the audience that it is a crime to rape and use women for a profit. A shift needs to take place regarding the roles placed on women. They cannot be thought of as the weaker sex, an object of sex, or as invisible and expendable. Mrs. Williams suggests communities need to be more involved against such violence.

**CSW57 Parallel Event, contd. on pg. 10**

### Contents

CSW57: Summary & WFWPI Event -----	1
<b>At the UN in New York</b>	
NGO Briefings-----	2
Reports from Special Events-----	3-4
<b>At the UN in Vienna</b>	
Crime Prevention & Criminal Justice-----	4
<b>At the UN in Geneva</b>	
Efforts for the Elimination of FGM-----	5
<b>Activities Around the World</b>	
Northeast Region-----	6
<b>WFWP Conferences</b>	
2nd GWPN Assembly in Korea-----	7
Regional GWPN Assemblies in USA, Europe, South America & Asia -----	7-8
Upcoming Events-----	12

CSW 57 Priority Theme:  
**Elimination and Prevention of  
all Forms of Violence Against  
Women and Girls**  
**We have Agreed Conclusions!**

March 4-15, 2013 - UN HQ New York

By *Bonnie Berry*

Approximately 4000 NGO Representatives participated in CSW 57. Last year, CSW ended without Agreed Conclusions with regard to the issues of rural women, but hopes were high this year, that a strong proactive Outcome Document would be agreed upon that provides a policy framework for all member states of the United Nations to eliminate violence against women and girls. UN Women composed and provided the draft outcome document that became the starting point of negotiations for the official delegations from forty five nations that built in intensity over the days.

NGO representatives used caucus meetings to strategize on how to lobby the delegations to be sure that all understood and took to account, the crucial issues so women and girls are safe

**CSW57 Summary, contd. on pg. 11**



## Statement of Purpose

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

WFWPI Chapters adhere to the principle that women, working together, taking initiative and empowering one another across traditional lines of race, culture and religion to create healthy families, are resolving the complex problems of our societies and world.

Ultimately "solutions" come as **true** partnerships between men and women are established in all levels of society. The beginning point is within society's most elemental level—the family.

Peace then expands into our communities, nation and world. Therefore, WFWPI works to provide women worldwide with:

**the knowledge, tools and support needed to create peace at home, peace in our communities, our nations and our world.**

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

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This newsletter is published by the United Nation's Office of the Women's Federation for World Peace International  
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## At the UN in New York...

### Reports of NGO Briefings

## President of the General Assembly Dialogue with NGOs

September 10, 2012 - UN HQ New York

By *Cynthia Shibuya*

The Session was opened by the Assistant to the president, Hanifa Mezoui. Her remarks expressed the appreciation of H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, President of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly, the outgoing President, for Civil Society groups. H.E. Nassir opened the event with a very heartfelt speech, sharing his sincere heart and the efforts he made to foster collaboration between the NGO community and the UN to achieve the Millennium Goals. His strong view is that Civil Society is the key component to achieve the goals and agendas of the UN. Civil Society will continue to serve as partners to the UN to assist in achieving the UN Millennium Goals. The GA president's job is to serve as

a mediator and facilitator to find common ground on issues.

President Nassir continued citing examples of collaboration with Civil Society NGO's. "Collaboration has been key to bring reconciliation. The Inter-Religious Dialogue for Peace brought together a wide range of speakers to stand side-by-side and find common ground for the common good. Global participation is extremely important to withstand and overcome difficult times. With unity and commitment we can overcome and do more depending on our strong collaboration, cross-cultural understanding and respect in diversity."

Nassir continued praise for the NGO collaboration and hope for the future. He

**GA Dialogue, contd. on pg. 12**

## Ending the Violence of Extreme Poverty:

### Promoting Empowerment and Building Peace

In Observance of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty  
October 17, 2012 - ECOSOC Chamber UN HQ, New York City

By *Jeanne Carroll*

This event was organized in partnership with the International Movement ATD Fourth World, the NGO Sub-committee for the Eradication of Poverty and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, supported by the Missions of France and Burkina Faso to the United Nations.

This event was a creative and passionate expression of the arts as well as the desperate yearning of the body to see a significant decrease in extreme poverty by 2015. The event began with a moving poem, read by artist, Juan Gonzales. It told the story of a

lonely, gray and grizzly old man that died on a park bench simply because he was poor. The poem set a tone of serious desperation to end extreme poverty. Other representatives from member states and civil society expressed the need for solidarity in order to be successful in addressing poverty, emphasizing that suffering from poverty does not disappear but remains hidden inside as scars, therefore making peace impossible as long as extreme poverty remains.

Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon's message mentioned great strides made toward eradicating extreme poverty, in which people live on less than \$1.25 a day. He commended the work of

**Eradication of Poverty, contd. on pg. 9**

## Impact of Climate Change on People Living in Poverty

In Observance of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty  
November 29, 2012 - Salvation Army, New York City

By *Cynthia Shibuya*

Speakers - **HE Amb. Abulkalam Abdul Momen**: Bangladesh Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN and Chair of the Peace building Commission.

**Daniel Buckley**: Climate Change Team for the Environment and Energy Group in the Bureau for Development Policy of the UN Development Programme (UNDP)

**Sister Caroljean Willie**: NGO Representative for the Sisters of Charity Federation at the UN.

**Maria Luisa-Chavez**, Chief, NGO Relations DPI and moderator gave opening remarks, stating that the adverse impact of climate change on poverty reduction efforts

could compromise the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals for the Eradication of Poverty. People living in poverty are the most vulnerable because many of them live in areas that are prone to natural disasters. They are also more dependent on agriculture for income. With more severe weather events, agriculture is adversely affected.

Daniel Buckley offered that climate change and human development go hand in hand. Rising sea levels in agricultural communities in poor countries is causing loss of food sources, travel and security. People are migrating to the cities for work. There are already many climate refugees in the major cities in developing

**Climate Change, continued on pg. 12**

## UN Global Compact's 10th Principle & Post-2015 Development Agenda

December 10, 2012 - UN HQ, New York

By Cynthia Shibuya

### Speakers

- H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary General, United Nations\*
- H.E. Mr. Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations \*
- Mr. Georg Kell, Executive Director, UN Global Compact
- Mr. Olav Kjørven, Assistant Secretary-General, UN Development Programme \*
- Mr. Samuel DiPiazza, Vice-Chairman, Institutional Clients Group -Citigroup
- Mr. Andres Felipe Montoya, Chief Financial Officer, Independence S.A.\*

- Mr. Daniel Kaufmann, President, Revenue Watch Institute\*
- Mr. Keith T. Darcy, Executive Director, Ethics and Compliance Officers Association
- Mr. Zhile Wang, President, Beijing New Century Academy on Transnational Corporations

To commemorate International Anti-corruption Day, a high-level panel discussion was held on the UN Global Compact's 10th Principle and the Post 2015 Development Agenda. The Global Compact is a set of ten principles in the areas of human rights, labour, the environment and anti-corruption to guide

the private sector. UN agencies, governments, international anti-corruption organizations and representatives from the private sector provided different perspectives on the efforts carried out to advance the fight against corruption and what issues could be addressed to further advance the implementation of the 10th principle, which is: Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

The panel reviewed how much the international community has progressed in the last decade to enhance transparency, and highlighted the critical importance of anti-corruption in realizing global development priorities. Panelists discussed how the international community can foster an enabling environment to support the private sector's anti-corruption efforts.

S.G. Ban opened with remarks highlighting the importance of global transparency as key in accomplishing advances in anti-corruption efforts. He stressed the tremendous importance of global collaboration and information sharing, both with governments and the private sectors.

The panelists gave examples of corruption, mostly bribery and theft around the globe. Developing countries especially suffer because much needed aid and supplies – food, clothes, etc. are often stolen while entering the country. The aid so desperately needed never reaches its destination. Much discussion focused on the need for transparency measures to be put into place in every country with information shared internationally.

The session concluded with resounding agreement to advance transparency and information sharing initiatives, especially between government and the private sector.



## UN Women's Stakeholders & Survivors Forum

December 13-14, 2012 - UN HQ, New York

By Jeanne Carroll

The forum engaged stakeholders from 80 countries representing governments, women's groups, faith based organizations, youth the private sector and civil society in preparation for CSW57. Participants focused on the upcoming CSW 57 priority theme, Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls. Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of UN-Women spoke passionately of the plight of women and girls throughout the world as being "at risk of violence when carrying out essential daily activities within their homes, or while walking, taking public transport, collecting water or firewood." The threat of violence against women and girls occurs in all countries, contexts and settings and is one of the most pervasive violations of human rights. Ending violence against women is not about

demanding exceptional treatment. It is simply about letting women live in dignity. Madam Puri spoke of the need for governments to step in because the issue of safety, security and health of their female citizens is so blatantly at stake. The groundwork has been done and now concrete action needs to be put in place.

Five panels addressed fundamental areas to assure long term elimination of violence against women and girls-

**PANEL 1:** Setting the stage: the scope of the challenge; and existing global commitments for prevention and elimination of violence against women.

**PANEL 2:** Ensuring leadership, coordination and meeting the resource challenge for ending violence against women.

**PANEL 3:** Tackling causes and risk factors to prevent violence against women and girls

**Stakeholders, contd. on pg. 5**

## Promoting A Just Society

In Observance of Int'l Anti-Corruption Day - December 3-10, 2012

By Dr. Karen J. Smith

The Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice coordinated "Promoting A Just Society" in support of UN International Anti-Corruption Day 2012. In the weeks leading up to the Day, the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice invited Civil Society, Member States & individual experts to highlight what works in their ongoing efforts to counter corruption, stop human trafficking, deal with cyber crime, drugs, gangs and more. NGOs, UN Offices and experts contributed to this effort by holding educational events, networking and furthering their advocacy. The central event to mark International Anti-Corruption Day 2012 was an online event entitled: **Voices of Experts - What Works.**

H.E. Mr. Mohammed Loulichki, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations supports the Alliance's efforts but was unable to join us for the main event due to his responsibilities as President of the Security Council.

Events throughout the week included presentations, fora and online events and dealt with topics covering:

- Just and Equitable Society for Victims in Zones of Conflict
- Cyber Crime and Internet Security
- Guns, Drugs and Gangs
- Lutte Contre la Corruption et Développement Humain
- National Seminar on Anti Drug Usage to Save The Younger Generation
- Public Policy for Combating Political Corruption

- Trafficking Prevention and the Victims: New UN and Academic Perspectives

17 organizations co-sponsored the Week and supported by promoting the week to their members and networks, holding events and presentations as well as providing financial and personnel support.

The week provided opportunities for networking, awareness building, advocacy and education within the international NGO community, and among the more than 200 UN Missions (Permanent and Observer) and relevant UN offices.

The Alliance, chaired by Dr. Karen Judd Smith (WFP Representative to the UN), also conducted the main event marking the International Anti-Corruption Day 2012,

**The Alliance contd. on pg. 9**

### Report on Homicide from the Committee on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

April 23, 2012 - UN HQ Vienna, Austria

By Elisabeth Riedl

WFWP representatives Elisabeth Riedl and Irmgard Maentler attended Femicide: A Global Problem, a side-event at the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice., organized by the Academic Council on the United Nations System, the Small Arms Survey, and the UNODC Statistics and Surveys Section.

Dr. Michael Platzer, Vienna ACUNS Liaison Office opened the discussion, outlining the issue and referring to a movie on femicide, called "It's a Girl". This provided an understanding of the phenomenon in India of intentionally killing infant girls by gender-related abortion, by infanticide, or by neglect. Discrimination leading to death cuts across social and economic boundaries and exists in many countries. In India, gender-related abortion of ten million girls over the last two decades has led to an alarming gender gap. On average, only 899 girls are born for every 1,000 boys. It is estimated that 50 million women and girls are missing. The phenomenon is as old as many cultures. It reflects the low esteem, that women are held in

many societies, where a girl is seen as a burden, a boy is seen as an economic asset."

Ms. Angela Me, Chief, Statistics and Surveys Section, UNODC presented data on the killing of women in the context of global homicide, as presented in The Global Study of Homicide (October 2011).

In Europe half of the women killed in 2008-2010 were killed by a family member. For men it is just 15%. There is a clear relation between the killing of women and the killing due to partner and family violence. In North America the percent of family and partner violence-related femicide reaches 70%.

Dr. Anna Alvazzi del Frate (Research Director, Small Arms Survey) Geneva.

The term femicide is used to define any killing of a woman. It is different from the definition given in the 1970s, which had a very strong feminist component (killing women because they were women).

Women who live in abusive relationships are much more likely to be killed. The presence of a gun in the home is very likely to transform disputes into killings. "Violence against

women is the most frequent and less punished crime in the world." was the first sentence of the documentary shown and it holds true. Therefore femicide, more so than homicide, is an issue that should be looked at more locally. Only 30% of women are killed with a firearm. This is a big problem and it requires thinking and preventive action.

Mr. Sami Nevala, Statistician Team Coordinator, Freedom & Justice Department, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights introduced an ongoing project: a European Council, Coordination Action on Human Rights Violations. He also introduced the UN Secretary General's database on violence against women, which provides a global overview of existing surveys.

Dr. Janice Joseph, Professor of Criminal Justice, Richard Stockton College of New Jersey discussed femicide in Latin America. Femicide is seen as a hate crime or a form of terrorism. The most common form is intimate femicide, but there are others as well: intra-family (honor killings), infanticide, multivictim femicide (serial killers) and systemic femicide (in war zones).



### Reports from Special Events continued...

### Report on CSW 57 Consultation Day

March 3, 2013 - Armenian Convention Center, New York

By Merly Barrete Barlaan

Before the opening of CSW57, over 800 women and men gathered to tackle issues of violence against women. The day started with a theater performance about trafficking performed by GIRL BE HEARD. Ms. SoonYoung Yoon, Chair, NGO CSW/ New York welcomed NGO delegates. The story of Malala Yousafse, the young Pakistani girl who was shot in the face for speaking out for the right of girls to be educated, though tragic, is an inspiration.

Dr. Michelle Bachelet, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN Women reported on the work of UN Women. She urged every participant to be the beginning point to end violence against women and girls in all forms. "Discrimination and violence against women and girls have no place in the 21st century". There are many major achievements for gender equality. But success stories are often overshadowed by stories of persistent and grave human rights violations of women and girls. She emphasized that there can be no peace, no prosperity, no progress, without the full and equal participation of women. Dr. Bachelet mentioned positive developments in legal frameworks, but emphasized the need for implementation and accountability. She stressed the important role of education, and engagement of both men and women, as

partners in efforts for gender equality. UN Women supports development of laws, national action plans and policies, capacity-building and training programs. UN Women provides funding to NGOs and civil society, contributes to advocacy, awareness raising and supports local initiatives. She concluded, "Violence against women and girls is preventable. You and I have a responsibility to rid our world of violence. Your role as civil society cannot be understated".

Keynote addresses were delivered by two NGO CSW Women of Distinction Awardees, Ms. Tawakkal Karman, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, and Ms. Bineta Diop, Chair, Board of Directors, Femmes Africa Solidarite. Ms. Karman stated, "Human civilization is the fruit of effort of both women and men. When women are treated unjustly, all social deficiencies and cultural illnesses unfold, and the whole community suffers." Ms. Bineta Diop spoke about suffering of women in conflict areas. She mentioned the story of the hummingbird. When there are forest fires all animals and birds escape but the little hummingbird does not, it flies in and out of the fire with one drop of water, doing the best it can.

Afternoon panel discussions began with the topic "Trafficking of Women and Girls". Moderated by Ilona Graenitz, Chair, NGO

CSW/Vienna. Speakers were Dr. Helga Konrad, Former Austrian Minister for Women, Dr. Lilian Hofmeister, judge and human rights activist, Dr. Barbara Spinalli, CEDAW expert, and Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary General for Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships, UN Women. Speakers expressed grave concerns on the lack of political will to push initiatives and adjust policies to respond to current trends to fight human trafficking. A second panel on The Role of Men was moderated by Bandana Rana, President of Saathi and the Network to End Domestic Violence, Nepal. and included topics such as femicide, trafficking, and HIV/AIDS. The panel on Best Practices to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls was moderated by Nyaradzai Gumbonzvanda, Sec. Gen. Worldwide YWCA and Chair, NGO CSW/ Geneva.

#### RING THE BELL Campaign

In India in 2008, men and boys started to break the cycle of violence against women with a simple, effective action: when they heard a man abusing a woman inside a nearby home, they rang the doorbell or found another way to interrupt the violence. The campaign was part of a three-year Clinton Global Initiative commitment to end the pandemic of violence

**CSW57 Consultation, contd. on pg. 5**

## Intensifying Global Efforts for Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation/FGM

February 6, 2013 - UN HQ Geneva, Switzerland

By Yvonne Von Stedingk and Julia Handschin

Among the many various kinds of violence against women, Female Genital Mutilation/FGM is among the most vicious. As FGM is almost always carried out on minors, it is also a violation of the rights of the child. Furthermore, it differs from most other forms of violence against women, in that females are not only the victims but women are also involved in perpetration, as the girl's female relatives are normally responsible for arranging the entire procedure which is performed by traditional female excisers.

FGM comprises all procedures which involve partial or total removal of a girl's external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for nonmedical reasons. Basically this is a custom deeply rooted in social, religious and cultural norms. Among families, communities and cultures in which FGM is performed, it is believed to ensure that girls conform to norms related to sexual restraint, femininity and respectability so as to duly prepare them for adult life and marriage.

As FGM involves removing and/or damaging healthy and normal female genital tissue, it interferes with the natural function of girls'/women's bodies. Furthermore, as traditional excisers use a variety of tools to perform FGM including razor blades and knives, and do not use anesthetic, all forms of FGM are associated with high risk for infection and involve infliction of severe, intense pain. Research into the health effects of FGM has progressed in recent years, particularly by World Health Organization (WHO), showing in several studies, the disastrous effects FGM has had on numerous pregnant women in various African countries, resulting in infections, pain, difficult

childbirth - in some instances even leading to death.

According to WHO, data on FGM prevalence from those African countries in which the practice has been documented suggest that:

- 100-140 million girls and women worldwide are living with the consequences of FGM;
- Approximately 3.3 million girls are at risk of FGM each year, and
- In the 28 countries from which the national prevalence data exist (27 in Africa and Yemen) more than 101 million girls aged 10 years and older are living with the effects of FGM.

FGM is also known to be practiced in some countries in Asia and the Middle East; Estimates on FGM prevalence among communities living outside their native countries have also been made. For example, documents from the European Parliament suggest that more than half a million women and girls have undergone or are at risk of the procedure in the European Union. It is thought that variations in laws and approaches to FGM across the region are leading to cross border movements of girls so that the procedure can be done.

According to most recent data from the United Nations, released on February 6th 2013, the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, the practice is becoming less prevalent overall especially among the younger generation. The decline is particularly noticeable in some countries. In Kenya, women aged 45-49 are three times more likely to have undergone the practice than girls aged 15-19. And yet as many as 30 million girls under the age of 15 may still be at risk. However, following unanimous adoption of the

be invoked to justify any form of violence against women. The passion was palpable at the Survivors Luncheon where five women who lived through violence turned their experience around and made lasting, positive changes through legislative and policy reforms to end violence against women.

During the final panel, Ivan Simonovic, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights summarized the approach needed for all parties of civil society to work together to end violence against women. These steps are:

- Build legislative frameworks with international standards
- Find underlying social and economic causes
- Raise awareness and develop measures of protection and redress, include men and boys
- Develop curriculum to promote women and girls' rights in schools and the community. It is important to include religious leaders in the initiative.
- Accountability for perpetrators is a MUST.

UN General Assembly Resolution of December 2012, calling on Member States to undertake steps toward ultimate elimination of FGM; coupled with efforts by major UN agencies such as the UNFPA and UNICEF, which are currently carrying out the most successful programs in some 15 African countries; together with NGOs and governments, the new focus on ultimate elimination of FGM show hopeful signs.

WHO documentation on "Understanding and addressing violence against women: Female Genital Mutilation" stresses:

1. The importance of understanding the social dynamics of decision-making related to FGM, which are embedded in community and group dynamics so interventions must include individuals, families and excisers;
2. That legal sanctions, the most common type of intervention on national and international levels, are not enough;
3. That, in a few countries, there is a significant reduction in numbers of FGM victims among women aged 15-19 years; There is a lower prevalence among daughters of educated mothers;
4. There is increasing research and positive change to address FGM among immigrant populations in developed countries;
5. A reduction in the average age at which a girl is subjected to the procedure in most countries;
6. According to a three year study in Gambia and Senegal, it was found that decisions about FGM were made by more than one member of the family and that often it was the father who was less supportive than the mother and even often crucial to decisions not to subject daughters to the procedure.



- All women/girls must have access to justice.

Michelle Bachelet, Under Secretary General and Executive Director of UN Women outlined substantial strides in women's rights due to grassroots efforts. No amount of effort goes unrecognized to end violence against women and girls. Even though CEDAW has been ratified by 127 countries it is still not implemented effectively in those countries. She mentioned an attempt to make further progress in this area: COMMIT, a new global initiative which calls on world leaders to fulfill their promise to end violence against women and girls. Currently twelve member states support the effort. Ms. Bachelet concluded, "We have to face this challenge with as little delusion and as much determination as possible. We have to roll up our sleeves and get to work with partners from across society to do what needs to be done. We need to bring much needed services and justice to women and girls."



### CSW57 Consultation, contd from pg. 4

against women in India. Today Bell Bajao has touched over 130 million people, and has become a metaphor for stopping abusive behavior in any form. The Ring the Bell Pledge: I believe that domestic violence should not happen. Ever. But it does. And if it happens in my neighborhood, I believe I have the ability to interrupt it. I pledge that I will not turn away. I will become involved. I will ring the bell.



### Stakeholders, contd from pg. 3

PANEL 4: Ensuring inclusive policies and strategies to eliminate violence against all women and girls (e.g. women with disabilities, indigenous women, migrant women, adolescent girls).

PANEL 5: Integrated service delivery and multi-sectored responses: good practices.

The discussions brought to the forefront that at no time can traditions or practices...

# Activities Around the World in 2013 North - East Region

## Kiev ~ Ukraine



16-Day Campaign in Cooperation with Kiev City



Project with Kiev City contd.



Ukraine: 16-Day Campaign against Gender Violence



Ukraine: 16-Day Campaign against Gender Violence



Ukraine: 16-Day Campaign against Gender Violence

## Moscow ~ Russia



Spring Week of Kindness - Concert for War Veterans



Congratulatory Cards for War Veterans



Concert for War Veterans



Int'l Women's Day - WFWP Charity Program



Int'l Women's Day - WFWP Charity Program



Int'l Day of Tolerance Observation 2012 - Moscow



Int'l Day of Tolerance Observation 2012 - Moscow



Concert for the Blind



New Year Charity Program for Disabled Children



Int'l Family Day Celebration

## 2nd Global Women's Peace Network (GWPN) Assembly Empowering Women in the 21 Century: Women, Family, and Peace

February 23, 2013 - Sheraton Grande Walkerhill Hotel, Seoul, Korea



Opening Session Welcoming Remarks- Ms Yunsook Lee, Advisor Korean Association of University Women



Opening Session  
First Lady of Palau, Valeria Toribiong



Opening Session  
First Lady of Fiji, Adi Salaseini Kavunono



Opening Session Remarks of Encouragement  
Ms. Lu Hsiu-Lien Former Vice President - Taiwan



Forum Main Speaker, Ms. Ellen Sauerbrey  
Former Assistant Secretary of State, USA  
(Full text of Ms Sauerbrey's speech at [www.wfwp.org](http://www.wfwp.org))



2nd Global Women Peace Network Assembly

## GWPN Assembly - Asia: Inaugural Convocation and Banquet

January 11, 2013 - Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel

Twelve hundred participants attended the Inaugural Convocation of the Global Women's Peace Network- Asia. High level local women activists, educators and politicians attended the program including a representative from Pres. Benigno Aquino's III office, former Senator, Hon. Jamby Madrigal. Included in attendance were university presidents, faculty members and a Commissioner from the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), CHED supervisors, former and current foreign dignitaries, and many NGO leaders. Further the former Vice President of Taiwan, Hon. Annette Lu, the granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi, Tara Gandhi Bhattacharjee and two Cambodian women cabinet ministers attended. Present during the event were the 500 international and local youth delegates of the International Youth Assembly and 350 ILC international and local participants.

WFWPI President, Pres. Lan Young Moon and Vice President, Prof. Yeon Ah Choi Moon were honoured guests. Pres. Moon's keynote address was entitled, Future Direction of WFWPI, WFWPI's



relationship with the United Nations. Other speakers included Intl. VP of WFWPI-Asia Ms Lily Lin, Hon. Annette Lu, former Vice President of Taiwan, Hon. Sreerupa Mitra Chaudhury, from the Ministry of Women and Children, India, and former Speaker of the House of the Republic of the Philippines, the Hon. Jose De Venecia, Jr. In support of this new project, former President of the Republic of the Philippines, Hon. Gloria. M. Arroyo, sent a beautiful bouquet of flowers to Pres. Lan Young Moon.



## GWPN Assembly - South America

December 16, 2012 - Sao Paulo, Brazil



## GWPN Assembly - North East Region Inauguration & WFWP 20th Anniversary Celebration

November 23, 2012 - Alfa Izmailovsky Hotel, Moscow

Two hundred participants from Korea, America, Japan, Austria, Switzerland, Hong Kong, Ukraine, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Belarus and from several cities of Russia attended the Global Women's Peace Network Assembly held at the Conference Hall of Alfa Izmailovsky Hotel. Eurasian chapter of WFWP was very grateful to welcome our International President of WFWP Lan Young Moon and two wonderful WFWP leaders from Korea, Isa Brazil and Jung Mi Cha, President of WFWP U.S., Angelika Selle, President of WFWP of Hong Kong Paris Moon, President of WFWP of Ukraine, Tatiana Kotseba, President of WFWP of Moldova, Raisa Bradutanu and many other international and Russian guests at the Global Women's Peace Network Assembly. There were also many women who laid the foundation for WFWP work on NEC continent in attendance, such as Nina Izaak, Kathrin Ladstatter, Barbara Zing,



many Japanese women who used to work in our country. Many women leaders who lead their own women's and social organizations took part in this program. We hope this event can become a real starting point for a new level of activities in Russia and other countries of NEC.



## GWPN Assembly - Europe Women's Leadership in a New Era: Creating and Living in the Culture of Peace

November 23-25, 2012 - Rome, Italy

By Carolyn Handschin

20th Anniversary of the Women's Federation for World Peace International and the inauguration of the Global Women's Peace Network in Europe were celebrated during the 10th annual regional WFWP conference. Over 150 women leaders, including many young women, from 25 nations participated. It was held at the European Parliament's "Sale della Bandiere" and the Hotel ESH, co-sponsored by the Municipality of Rome and The Italian Society for International Organization. The date coincided with the UN International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

Dr. Gianni Alemanno, representing the Mayor of Rome, welcomed the conference guests. Many high level professionals were in attendance and served as speakers including:

Dr. Zhannat Kosmukhamedova, Expert HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care Division, UN Office on Drugs Crime in Vienna; Marija Efremova, Former Ambassador, Republic of Macedonia to the UK; Ms. Aisha Abdul Latif, human rights lawyer and consultant for immigration services commissioner, UK; and



Dr. Antonio Stango, President of Helsinki Federation for Human Rights in Italy.

As part of the celebration for the 20th anniversary of WFWP, the conference ended with a Bridge of Peace ceremony, part of a WFWPI program of reconciliation over two decades that has brought thousands of women together to transform enmity into appreciation and development. Participants in Rome, representing dozens of ethnicities, religions and cultures crossed the bridge of reconciliation together pledging a commitment to forgiveness and reconciliation.



A. Abdul Latif, M. Aframova, C. Handschin, G. Mieli, A. Stango, Z. Kosmukhamedova

## GWPN Assembly - USA and 20th Anniversary Celebration

The Turning Point

October 25-27, 2012 - Las Vegas





# What More Can Europe Do to Advance Human Rights?

## Comemorating International Human Rights Day 2012

December 4-5, 2012 - EU ECOSOC Chambers, Brussels, Belgium

By Carolyn Handschin and Alan Silito

In commemoration of International Human Rights Day 2012, WFWPI in partnership with Universal Peace Federation held a conference on the theme “What more can Europe do to Advance Human Rights?” The conference was hosted by the European Economic and Social Committee and the European Parliament.

The opening session speakers included Dr. Aaron Rhodes, former Director of the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights, who described significant contributions to human rights made by the European Union. Mr. Doudou Diène, former Director of the Division of Intercultural projects at UNESCO and former UN Special Rapporteur on Racism referred to the challenge of multiculturalism in Europe, saying we should look at and identify common values of the various religions while recognizing their specificities. Dr. Yong Cheon Song, Chair of UPF Europe suggested that an interfaith assembly be created at the heart of European Institutions to bring the wisdom of the world’s faiths to bear on their deliberations.

The second session addressed the question, **How can interreligious cooperation prevent racial, national and religious prejudice?** The speakers were Rev. Dr. Christiaan Vonck, Rector of Faculty of Comparative Study of Religion in Antwerp FVG, Rabbi Joseph Abittan, Rabbinical Professor in France and Sheikh Dr Hojjat Ramzy (HR), Education Committee chair for the Muslim Council of Britain and Professor of Islamic studies at Oxford.

The third session focused on, **The Future of Democracy in Europe: Why Women are Important to Leadership and Decision-making.** One speaker was Ms. Angela Melo, Director for the Division of Human Rights

and Philosophy in the Social and Human Sciences Sector at UNESCO since March 2009. She explained that governance was almost exclusively the domain of men, but women, who are catalyzers of a new concept of human life and dignity must attain positions of greater social responsibility.

Mrs. Carolyn Handschin, President of WFWP Europe cited the courage of the Mirabel sisters, four Dominican political dissidents who opposed the dictatorship of Rafael Trujillo. The courage through their torture and death turned the political tide- and caused the General Assembly to designate November as International Day to Eliminate Violence against Women. These sisters did not consider themselves leaders, she said. Leadership does not demand a title, but is a mind-set to act when things need to be done. SC Resolution is an invitation to all girls and women to ennobling relations between men and women, partners in development and peace.

The third speaker, Ms. Aslihan Tekin is a legal and policy consultant on E.U. Affairs and an expert on human rights. The ratio of women in decision-making positions is very low, even in the EU Commission where only 9 out of 27 representatives are women. There is existing legislation to solve this but implementation is too slow.

Session 5, **Youth Perspectives: the Right to Information for Young People and Human Rights Education – Foundations for a Democratic Europe** brought speakers from the Council of Europe Advisory Council on Youth and an Advocacy Officer with Developing Europeans’ Engagement for the Eradication of Global Poverty.

Sessions 6 and 7 were in the European Parliament, co-sponsored by the NGO Freedom

citizens immediately and mercilessly. Policies must be put in place to protect the poorest citizens who live in daily crisis. The Ambassador from France emphasized eradication of poverty must be the very core of all efforts.

Video presentations, “Break the Silence and Be Heard” further emphasized the worldwide plight of poor single mothers. While, “Violence of Disrespect-Breaking the Silence” spoke of the darkness of silence, the video stresses that when victims speak out - solidarity and peace can result. The session closed with a presentation by youth, expressing their own experiences with poverty, life in shelters, abandonment, and finding passion and empowerment to rise above poverty. These testimonies showed hope where there seemed to be no space for those hopes to take root. This is the message that can transform the impoverished with the help of policies and practices put into place and implemented by government and civil society.

from Torture and hosted by Dr Charles Tannock, a British Member of the European Parliament. Session 7 entitled **Prevention & Eradication of Torture** featured Mr. Keith Best, CEO of this NGO. Ms. Philomène Uwamaliya, a Rwandan torture survivor told her story. Her vulnerability and strength of will to prevent torture struck the audience indelibly.

The final session of the 2 day conference entitled, **The Prevention of Sexual Violence, Especially in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**, opened by Humphrey Hawksley, BBC World Affairs correspondent and author. Cross cutting issues of conflict minerals from eastern DRC found in many laptops and mobile phones, and occurrence of extreme sexual violence in DRC were discussed. Other speakers were employees a large global banking group who formed a pressure group on these issues, and Charlotte Simon, a torture survivor from eastern D.R.C., who spoke passionately on causes and need to end killing, rape and torture. Subsequent meetings on this topic are being planned.



### **Eradication of Poverty, contd from pg. 2**

educating the girl child and was encouraged that the rate of school enrollment by girls equals that of boys in more countries than ever before. Even though such measurable strides have been made, one billion people still live in poverty, a number which is hoped to be cut in half by 2015. The Secretary General stated this will only be possible if we work together tirelessly - saying, “Rampant Poverty, which has festered for far too long, is linked to social unrest and threats to peace and security. On this International Day, let us make an investment in our common future by helping to lift people out of poverty so that they, in turn, can help to transform our world.”

H.E. Mr. Der Kadgo of Burkino Faso, addressed the fact that poverty builds violence and disorder. Marginalized people face challenges and despair on all fronts. Food shortages and natural disaster affect the poorest

### **Alliance, contd from pg. 3**

held online. The event featured three speakers who informed participants about their unique contributions to countering-corruption, crime and violence while creating a very lively and fruitful discussion for the international audience who attended. The speakers were Dr. Ugoji Adanma Eze, Engr Aja Eze Foundation (<http://www.engajaezefoundation.org>), Advocating for Female Child Soldiers; Mr. Saad Filali Meknassi, UN Convention Against Corruption Coalition (<http://www.uncaccoalition.org>); and Dr. Sherry Dingman, Fang Protective Services (<http://fangprotectiveservices.org>.) More information about the Week can be found at: <http://cpcjalliance.org/about-just-society-2012/>

THE Alliance  
OF NGOs ON CRIME PREVENTION  
& CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
[www.CPCJAlliance.org](http://www.CPCJAlliance.org)

## CSW 57 Parallel Event, contd from pg. 1

Religious organizations can help to reduce and end such violence through onsite prevention and education to members. Protocols should be placed throughout the community to act against and prevent violence. Educating young girls through the schools would empower them to understand their value and become aware of the risks of trafficking and other violence that exist. She ended with emphasis on hope, encouraging us that our passion can change the world.

**Abaynesh Asrat**, excited to share her efforts through her nonprofit, Nation to Nation Networking Ltd., described hope as the backbone of life and humanity. Focusing on Ethiopia and its struggles, including high rates of maternal mortality and women marrying young, she struck at the big question: what can we do? The organization has helped provided counseling, raised funds to build a fistula satellite hospital in which 90% of fistula cases are cured, and continue to empower women to live confidently. These women who receive medical care now have hope for their futures instead of facing marginalization without the medical care. They also meet other women at these hospitals and find lasting support through women to women networking.



Ms. Asrat also encouraged the midwifery college which is now graduating its second group of women. Initial concerns of men coming from surrounding communities to rape incited the recruitment of guards to keep the women safe. Trafficking, driven by money and power, is also a growing problem in Ethiopia. Traffickers need to be identified because this is a multibillion dollar criminal enterprise. Justice needs to be served. Her last point reflects on the powerful messages created with art. By writing or creating art, she feels that hope can be reborn.



Inspired by the actions made on behalf of women's rights, **Dana Jack**, a Professor at Western Washington University and advisor to the NGO Justice for All in Nepal, is connected to the NGO because it brings a voice to the victims of violence. This NGO is the first of its kind in Nepal, formed by seven women lawyers, who are dedicated to women's rights. One of the main problems in the patriarchal society of Nepal is that laws to protect women against violence are not enforced. Violence against women can make them feel silenced and depressed, which can also be another form of violence. Justice for All takes perpetrators to court and through the legal system.

Women turn to other women during rough times and common violent threads silence their voice. They share and talk to find hope. Stress can be reduced, according to research, when women have a voice. Providing statistics, Dr.

Jack pointed out that approximately 81% of women face domestic violence in rural areas in Nepal. Suicide is now the leading cause of death among young Nepalese women because of various forms of violence and depression. Justice for All has made great strides, winning seven out of ten cases against perpetrators. They are making it possible for young girls to make a new life. They are even educating men to speak out against domestic violence.

Wearing a hand woven sari crafted by rape survivors, **Ms. Sreerupa Chaudhury**, president of the Women's Federation of World Peace India and Chairperson of the National Institute for Gender Justice, first introduced the news story of a brutal rape of a 16 year old paramedical student in New Delhi on the 16th of December, 2012. She explained nationwide challenges including violence against women in armed conflict in border disputes. She emphasized some of the main issues of violence against women, especially in relation to organ trading. Concern about sex trafficking is being eclipsed by the growing market for organ trading. Mafia groups come from outside India to train thugs in India how to drug and capture women to steal (forced surgery) organs to sell.



Ms. Chaudhury has personally interviewed jailed rapists in attempt to understand why men rape women. Each man she interviewed had been abused as a child. She believes that in order for change to occur, family education is needed. Women must be allowed to take leadership roles in influential positions such as parliament. At the grassroots level there have been successful elections increasing participation of women leaders. India has created rehabilitation centers for women survivors of violence to heal and also empower women in India. In finishing, she stressed the importance of maintaining that heart to heart connection to support all women.

Questions following the four panelists from the audience brought up the role of informal education as well as what women can do to foster their own inner confidence and beauty. Panelists reminded the audience that the roles placed on women by the media needs to shift. Young girls need to hear from their mothers that they are loved and are intelligent. This informal motivation and education can foster inner confidence in young girls.

### Luncheon meeting to commemorate the 57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women at UN Delegate Dining Room

Following the parallel event eighty women and men from U.S., Canada, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Philippines gathered at the UN Delegates Dining Room to participate in a celebratory luncheon sponsored by WFWPI. The theme was: The role of Women's NGOs in Achieving MDG #3, Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women. Mrs. Motoko Sugiyama



Ms Lopa Banerjee, Ms Motoko Sugiyama, Ambassador Antonio Gumende



Ms Sreerupa Chaudhury, Ms Lopa Banerjee, Dr. Lan Young Moon

served as MC. WFWPI President, Professor Lan Young Moon Park gave welcoming remarks.

His Excellency, Ambassador Antonio Gumende, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Mozambique to the UN, provided opening remarks on the theme of the role of women's NGOs in achieving MDG #3. He believes that solving violence against women is **CSW57 Parallel Event, continued on pg. 12**

## CSW57 Summary, contd from pg. 1

and protected in their homes, in the midst of armed conflict and everywhere else, as well as support services provided for those who are victimized. Statements were composed and updated as negotiations proceeded to clarify positions and use as lobbying tools. Though I have participated in the last twelve CSWs, this year, NGO representatives had significant intensity and a new level collaboration to pressure toward agreed conclusions. In fact, the European Union, North American caucus used its listserv during the final negotiations to inform the caucus members on progress and announce the final agreed conclusions! It was reported that Madame Bachelet spoke to negotiators when the process was flagging, providing encouragement that the whole world was watching and women and girls everywhere are counting on their good work. The NGO community was gratified to hear that member states had reached consensus on a strong and proactive outcome document. A side effect of the process was a stronger and more connected regional caucus network, as both the African and Asian regional caucuses have now linked into the EU-North American listserv. There is no doubt that going forward, these international electronic connections will assist the NGO community to gain momentum on the ground and leverage each other's good practices as well as face challenges and barriers through the support of the network.

The official meetings are the core and centerpiece of CSW, and offer national delegations the opportunity to report progress and challenges in their nations. In addition Side Events are held by UN Agencies and Member States, briefings by various official delegations, daily briefings by members of the NGO CSW NY Executive Committee and UN Women representatives and an extensive kaleidoscope of parallel events held by NGOs in consultative status with the UN and their partners. Parallel events were held in four different locations. The menu of events was extensive and high quality.

One parallel event sponsored by Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), Violence, Ecologies and Livelihoods - Confronting Unsustainable Development examined forms of violence resulting from unsustainable development and related environmental degradation. Speakers from Colombia, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Japan and the Netherlands shared experiences of violations against women's human rights in the context of land grabbing, mining, agribusiness, nuclear testing, and disasters plus proposed measures to achieve sustainable development and eliminate violence against women.

A second panel, Degradation of the Earth and Violence Against Women and Girls connected resource scarcity, deforestation and damage to our earth with increased domestic violence and violence against women and girls. Donna Goodman of Earth Child Institute works with groups of children to

empower them to protect and restore the environment, benefiting today's children and future generations, reducing violence against women and girls. Nina Simons, Co-Founder and Co-CEO of Bioneers inspires a shift to live on Earth in ways that honor the web of life, each other and future generations. Nina stressed how important story is as a reservoir of our values. We need to change the story to earth honoring for all of humanity. Jean Shinoda Bolen, M.D. Jungian analyst, psychiatrist, author and activist spoke of the importance of trees and nature. The question was raised, "What do we have to learn from nature?" Jean spoke of trees and nature having the power to connect across differences and bring differences together, creating more resilience and strength. One way to connect for the betterment of the earth and humanity is to plant trees.

Ending Violence Against Women: Effective Practices sponsored by International Federation of University Women presented diverse perspectives. Panelist Mick Menard reminded us this is the age of media, and the importance



of narrative. She presented a video with cameos of grassroots women leaders from rural India, their view of self and their development of self-respect, power in decision making and factors in development of one's agency. The next panelist from UNICEF stressed education as a key effective practice for elimination of violence against women and girls but promoted a holistic approach that included efforts to reduce and prevent incidents of violence against women and girls. Sixty one million primary school aged children are out of school around the world. Facing violence takes a complex multifaceted approach, that takes a human rights perspective and monitors incidents. For instance, one community found that boys who had been suspended from school were acting out violently toward girls and bullying other boys to participate. When a different disciplinary approach was used, keeping the boys in school, incidents of violence declined. Without monitoring, the connection would not have been discovered.

The NGO, World Vision used their event, Girls Not Brides - Prevent Early Marriage to launch the report: Untying the Knot. World Vision Australia CEO emphasized that early marriage is a type of violence against girls that lasts a lifetime and leads to other forms of violence. Sadly, it is a complex matter closely tied to family poverty and a fundamental view that girls are less valuable. In times of natural disaster or other crisis, early marriages increase

as parents see marriage as protection against the unknown dangers with displacement and deep, relentless poverty. A young woman from Bangladesh spoke on behalf of her peers at home. Two thirds of the girls in her country are married before age 18, the highest rate in Southeast Asia. So far she has convinced her parents to let her stay in school but each year at least two of her friends have married and become mothers. The government has started a media campaign, parent education, drama presentations and provides educational expenses to curb early marriage and keep girls in school. It is the law but not followed.

Friday March 8, 2013 the official International Women's Day celebration was held at UN Headquarters North Lawn Building. Conference Room 2 was full to capacity with women and men, many in colorful traditional dress from their nations. Though the tone was serious to align with the seriousness of violence against women and girls, the priority theme and sense of urgency for an agreed outcome document, UN Secretary General Ban ki Moon and Madame Ban, and UN Women Executive Director, Michelle Bachelet presided. CNN international anchor, Ms. Isha Sesay served as moderator. Permanent Representative from France to the UN, Ambassador Gerard Araud also spoke. Madame Bachelet introduced the UN Women theme song, One Woman, via video featuring 25 musicians from around the world. Madame Bachelet enjoyed singing along with the video performance as we all slowly joined in. Secretary General Ban, an advocate for women's rights and the end to violence against women and girls, told us about his call to action, A Promise is a Promise. He inspired us with his message, "On Women's Day, I congratulate you from the bottom of my heart. You have my full support to accomplish the dream of gender equity. We honor the pioneers who advance the process to enjoy rights for women and girls. But we also must set our sights. Violence against women is not inevitable. Mindsets can be changed, data collection can be strengthened. There is a simple power in naming and shaming. Prevention should be our watch word. Laws are being strengthened. UN Women Campaign Resources are critical. We can only fund 1% of requests. UN Women also needs more money. Never forget men and boys. I commend the CSW for devoting the time on this issue and remind states about the importance of addressing this issue. We do not have the luxury of time. We must reach more women and girls before violence reaches them. If we work as one, we shall shine."

*WFWPI was a signor of the statement submitted to CSW57 on behalf of NGO/CSW Austria. Full statement at <http://www.wfwp.org>.*

*Agreed conclusions: [http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/csw57/CSW57\\_agreed\\_conclusions\\_advance\\_unedited\\_version\\_18\\_March\\_2013.pdf](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/csw57/CSW57_agreed_conclusions_advance_unedited_version_18_March_2013.pdf)*



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**CSW57 Parallel Event, contd from pg. 10**  
central to women's empowerment. The NGOs' role is important to question myths throughout society through activism and research. These organizations can put pressure on governments to face issues that develop and act to eliminate inequality.

Keynote speaker, Ms. Lopa Banerjee, Chief Civil Society Section, UN Women gave a riveting speech on progress toward MDGs. It has been a struggle to fulfill some of the aspirations in areas of women's health and education. The goals for gender equality still remain unfulfilled. Gender parity in primary schools, but still gender inequality exists in work, education, and the economy. Ms. Banerjee insisted there be a commitment to achieve gender equality, especially moving forward into the post 2015 development agenda. There should be strong goals to achieve women's rights. She suggests that these goals should get rid of discriminatory laws, social norms and various policies that create inequality. She hopes that women can exercise their voice through the efforts being made at the UN. When asked how WFWPI could support the work of UN Women, she strongly recommended connecting with UN Women's over fifty in country offices or the more than 70 affiliate offices around the world, and particularly stressed joining together in the work of forming the post 2015 development agenda. (Full text of Ambassador Gumende's and Ms. Banerjee's speeches at [www.wfwp.org](http://www.wfwp.org))



## GA Dialogue, contd from pg. 2

concluded, "I opened the door for civil society and I hope you will continue forward with collaboration and sharing partnership. I will encourage the new president to continue to support the civil society and work together with you".

There was a question and answer session after his remarks. Concerns were raised regarding the Middle East, youth involvement, reconciliation, and more. H.E. Nassir assured everyone that their concerns were his and

that he will convey these concerns to the new president and encourage him to continue close collaboration with the NGO community.

It was a bittersweet meeting since president Nassir's heartfelt speech marked the end of working together with the NGO community as president of the General Assembly. His heart and support was appreciated by all and he will be greatly missed. However, his encouragement and endorsement of collaboration and partnership created a feeling of hope for the future work of NGOs with the UN in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.



## Climate Change, contd from pg. 2

countries. Water security and human health are challenges.

Amb. Momen spoke of the influx of climate refugees in the city of Dhaka, Bangladesh, whose numbers have reached 1/3rd of the population. He called for attention from the international community to create a fund to support displaced farmers worldwide.

Sister Willie explained that the seasons are longer, hotter, drier in many Island countries making it difficult to plant accurately. In India a 20-year study in one village showed that the cold season became indefinite and the traditional crops didn't grow in the new climate. The rain has become sporadic. The Monsoon is now late with little rainfall. Rivers are drying up. The wheat cannot grow well in the new climate which affects farmers' ability to afford food for livestock such as pigs and goats. In the coastal areas, the rising shoreline is crippling crop growth. The poor are migrating to cities for work. The parents take their children with them and cannot afford to put them in school. An entire way of life is disappearing.

The seven droughts suffered in St. Lucia have impacted agriculture severely. Farmers are not making money and so, not spending. Insufficient rainfall means lean crops, which means less nutritious meals for children, which means they are not able to perform well in school.

Sister Willie called for funds to research new crops as well as a shift in policy priorities and adaptation plans. Local governments can play a key role in solutions. Empowered women, also can be counted on to identify solutions because they make decisions based on what's best for children. NGOs are a great resource because they are there on the ground and accessible. With international collaboration for funding and working with Civil Society to create new policies and implementations, there is hope for creating a new, productive life for climate refugees and continued achievement in efforts to eradicate poverty.



## Upcoming Events

- ❖ April 10 WFWP 21st Anniversary
- ❖ May 15 Int'l Day of Families
- ❖ July 1-25 ECOSOC Substantive Session in Geneva
- ❖ Aug. 12 International Youth Day
- ❖ Sep. 24 68th Session of UN General Assembly Opening Session
- ❖ Oct. 16 World Food Day
- ❖ Oct. 17 Int'l Day of Eradication of Poverty
- ❖ Oct. 24 United Nations Day
- ❖ TBA WFWP 14th Int'l Leaders Workshop