

## Practical aspects of the campaign and results of previous conferences

- Call to action: The Women's Federation for World Peace Europe issued an appeal to both women and men who want to prevent, that under the disguise of increased turnovers through advertisement, not only a product is being advertised but, much more, the dignity of women is being undermined and violated. Leaflets and information materials are distributed in many European countries.
- Seminars: The Women's Federation Europe organizes ongoing educational seminars -  
  
Topics are the understanding of dignity and womanhood, the history of women in Europe, the feminine power, the historical chance of contributing to a culture of peace, reconciliation, women and leadership and feminine values as cornerstone for a peaceful world.
- Signature campaigns were organized and brought to the corresponding UN agencies.
  - Against the rapes in Bosnia
  - Against sex and violence in TV
  - For the Dignity of Women
- Book tables with information material on prevention of trafficking, forced labor and prostitution through understanding and living dignity are always well received
- Special materials, brochures and leaflets for UN days calling on ending violence against women and children, for the conferences and special seminars are available in different languages
- Websites dedicated to this subject and for this campaign help to create awareness
- Networking: Working together with other NGOs which dedicate their efforts to similar purposes.
- Conferences: Four Annual conferences of WFWP Europe have been dedicated especially to this topic
  - 2007: Vienna/ Seebenstein, Austria WFWP Europe launched the Dignity of Women campaign
  - 2008: Vienna. The title of the conference was: *Promoting human dignity to prevent trafficking and addiction*

WFWP Europe committee members consider this conference to have been instrumental for the success of bringing the awareness of the 'Dignity' of women and trafficking prevention campaign to assist each European country. 60 international participants representing 11 European countries, as well as Japan, Gabon, Nigeria, Mongolia, China and India attended this and worked on a joint resolution together, committing on practical solutions as

- 1) to establish hotlines
- 2) to offer assistance to victims and to report trafficking
- 3) to implement international legal procedures for victims protection
- 4) the establishment of a European data base on crime, similar to the Italian model
- 5) governments to improve living conditions of especially the poor and rural populations
- 6) that civil society actors and the media promote a global awareness about the realities of violence against women and children.
- 7) to address especially the Diasporas of the countries where victims of human trafficking originate
- 8) to support governmental and non-governmental organizations who work on creating awareness of potential victims, their families and local communities in the countries of origin

- 2009 WFWP annual conference took place in Paris. The title was: *Concluding the UNESCO Decade of a Culture of Peace: New Alliances to fulfill MDG 3*

This conference was a step forward especially in creating alliances between the participating NGOs. Awareness creating and educational aspects in preventing violence against women and children were the main focus.

- 2010: Now we are in Dresden - *Empowering women to form alliances to create a culture of peace, focusing on dignity as a cornerstone for building a culture of peace.*
- As a result of the European conferences, the Dignity of women Campaign was presented in other European countries:
  - In Strasbourg, December 2007 during a French German Friendship meeting, the project was presented to the participants.
  - WFWP Europe presented the „Dignity of Women“ at several events in Maribor, Celje and Ljubljana. 18-20th October 2008
    - On a Live talk radio program,
    - City Hall in Maribor, where WFWP Europe was welcomed by the Mayor, the local UN Human Rights Representative, and several NGOs
    - WFWP Slovenia Charity concert in Celje
  - Cyprus, Event on Women's Dignity held on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May 2009 in Nicosia, presentations translated into Greek

Meanwhile the project also has been introduced and carried out not only in many European countries but also in other continents, as in the States, Canada, New Zealand and Russia by the respective WFWP organizations

➤ Dignity project also was presented on International Women conferences

- Women's World Conference Madrid, Spain, 2008
- WORLD CIVIC FORUM May 7, 2009 Seoul, Korea: Role of Higher Education for Civic Enhancement "The Dignity of Women and Social Responsibility"
- A very special event took place March 2<sup>nd</sup> in New York. We had the opportunity to present the WFWp Europe Dignity project during the parallel event of WFWP International at the 54<sup>th</sup> CSW Conference at the UN .
- The Commission on the Status of Women is a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), dedicated exclusively to gender equality and advancement of women. It is the principal global policy-making body. Every year, representatives of Member States gather at United Nations Headquarters in New York to evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and advancement of women worldwide.
- The Commission was established by ECOSOC resolution 11(II) of 21 June 1946 with the aim to prepare recommendations and reports to the Council on promoting women's rights in political, economic, civil, social and educational fields. The Commission also makes recommendations to the Council on urgent problems requiring immediate attention in the field of women's rights.
- From 1-12 March 2010, the Commission on the Status of Women undertook a fifteen-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.
- Emphasis was placed on the sharing of experiences and good practices, with a view to overcoming remaining obstacles and new challenges, including those related to the Millennium Development Goals.
- *Ms. Motoko Sugiyama, VP and Director of UN Office, WFWP International* organized a half-day Parallel Event during the UN 54<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Women (March 1-12, 2010) on 2<sup>nd</sup> of March at the 11<sup>th</sup> floor, UN Church Center, New York.
- The title of the parallel event was **"Sharing of Good Practices to Achieve MDG Number 3"** which the speakers presented good practices from grassroots efforts and experiences to achieve MDG # 3: promote gender equality and empower women.
- The Conference room was filled, they wouldn't let us in. It was a wonderful atmosphere . The UN buildings were filled with 5000 women representing their countries and NGOs, investing themselves for others. That was a feeling of incredible hope.
- Four panelists shared their experiences in the areas of education, training, income generating activities to fight poverty, and women's dignity campaign. The testimonies of the panelists were moving. I wish I would have more time to share.
- *Dr. Nessie Ndivi-Hill, Professor, Essex County College, and President/ Founder of GADIAGO* shared about the investment for Cameroon and Nigeria from Gadiago, NGO based in New Jersey

- *Ms. Delia C Javanasundara Vice President, WFWP International for Asia Region and Coordinator, IRFF- Vietnam* explained about the incredible results of microcredits in the Asian region, especially in Vietnam.
- *Ms.Keiko Nozaki Vice project Director of WFWP Japan for Republic of Senegal* showed how they are helping women to find ways to financially support themselves in Senegal
- *Then Ms. Ingrid D Lindemann as Director of Education Dept of WFWP Europe and Co-Founder of European Dignity project had the chance to present our Dignity for Women Project . We received strong support from several men representing NGOs working for ending violence against women. Many women came and asked for information material, for several educational projects in African countries, the Philippines and for NGOs in South America*
- ***The following Dinner Meeting “The Role of NGO to achieve MDG#3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women” to Commemorate the 54<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women*** was opened by Pres. Prof. Lan Young Moon and Guestspeaker *Mr. Cheick Sidi Diarra, UN Under-Secretary-General, Special Advisor on Africa High Representative, UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS)*

I would like to conclude with some points of the resolutions of the 2009 conference resuming the goals of our campaign.

*We commit ourselves to:*

*Seek opportunities* to mediate, motivate and monitor our governments at the local, national and international level to fulfill the MDG's, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, SC Resolution 1325 and other commitments in support of the culture of peace,

*Use our influence* to teach the value of dignity and appreciation of diversity to our children, through words and actions, from the earliest age, especially as concerns the equal value of women and men.

*Raise public awareness* about violence, seeking to involve men and boys in activities for the prevention of violence against women and towards the empowerment of women and girls,

*Take responsibility* to solve cycles of enmity by building partnerships and commit together to goals and programs for a common peaceful future,

*Promote civic participation* by engaging social and government institutions to include peace and character education components in their programs- formal and non-formal education for peaceful resolution of conflicts, mediation and reconciliation-

*Promote paradigm changes* whereby empowerment comes through cooperation, not confrontation.

*Calling for a code of conduct* for a responsible media,

*Engaging youth* as co-planners and partners for the continued work towards a culture of peace and prosperity,

*Providing respect* and appreciation for our elders that they may “Age in dignity”!

Thank you