



WOMEN'S FEDERATION
FOR WORLD PEACE EUROPE

Global Women's Peace Network
20th Annual Women's Leadership Conference

**Transforming our World through Advancing Peace:
a Culture of Peace and Human Dignity**

November, 3-5, 2023

Venue: Radisson Blu, Larnaca, Cyprus

One hundred and ten women from thirty eight nations, representing governments, international institutions and civil society met in the historical Mediterranean city of Larnaca / Cyprus to strengthen their solidarity and call to action under the theme, "Transforming our World through Advancing Peace: A Culture of Peace and Human Dignity".

At the opening dinner, next to WFWPI's international President Ms. Moriko Hori, we had the pleasure of the presence of HE. Mrs. Philippa Karsera First Lady of Cyprus, Hon. Stephe Drakos, Former minister of justice and Public Order together with her husband, and Ms. Marilyn Theodoulou, Office of Commission of Gender Equality, Cyprus.

Ms Mitty Tohma, WFWP - Vice President of Europe gave the opening remarks! She highlighted the need for a call for peace among an ever rising number of conflicts connected to violence and war. Ms. Tohma expresses her hope that this gathering of women in an atmosphere of friendliness and cooperation can have an impact on a wider level. Mrs. Moriko Hori, President of WFWP International & WFWP-Japan: Mrs. Hori just had arrived from Ruanda, where WFWP Japan founded and is sustaining an educational centre since 25 yrs. Over 3000 children passed through this school. Mrs. Hori also describes examples of absolute poverty, that brought tears to most of the participants eyes, and made us realize once more the importance to meet and together bring a change into this world!

Dr. Zoe BENNET expresses her appreciation about conferences like this. She herself has organized 25 Middle East Women's Peace Conferences, tackling many different issues. Peace cannot come without the participation of women, it will not be achieved unless women take their natural role on all levels of decision making! We are all devastated by the wars and violent conflicts, where children and Women are used as a weapon! Hopes are that there will be positive news soon, and that both sides are back on the only way forward – that is to create a peace- agreement. We all would wish for a time to come, when these agreements are strived for BEFORE the weapons seem to be the only way out. Like we would do when our children were quarrelling: We did not give them weapons, we made them sit down and find a solution together instead.

HE.Mrs Karsera emphasised the importance of women's participation in leadership and announced happily that there are 41 % women MPs in the new government of Cyprus.

Mrs. ... received the Women of Excellence Award from WFWP, Solidarity and a inclusive a society with gender equality. Thanked for getting to know this remarkable work of WFWP. Having experienced a war in her own country, back in 1974 and having lost a family member, she strongly insisted, that however difficult the road to reconciliation may seem, it is the only way possible, as no Greek or Turk should have to experience such a terrible situation again!"



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Ms. Marcia de Abreu moderated the evening with a welcoming heart.

During a delicious dinner the networking among the participants representing around 50 different organisations and chapters started already, a main -purposes of such an international conference!
