



WOMEN'S FEDERATION
FOR WORLD PEACE EUROPE
& MIDDLE EAST

Presentation Summaries

Saturday, October 25th

Session II

The Roots of Harmony through Interfaith Dialogue

Sharing about religious harmony and lessons for peacebuilding through interfaith initiatives.

Ms. Tirzi Martin, Author, Senior Adviser WFWP, France

Tirzi Martin's speech, *"Words Before War: Dialogue as a Path to Peace in the Middle East,"* emphasizes the transformative power of interfaith dialogue in healing division and fostering harmony. She reminds us that despite our different faiths, languages, and traditions, we share one Creator and one humanity. True peace, she argues, is not achieved through weapons or domination but through understanding, respect, and communication. Martin reflects on a ceasefire reached after years of conflict – achieved not by force but through negotiation – and questions why dialogue wasn't chosen sooner. She highlights that real victory is shared peace, not conquest, and that women – mothers, sisters, daughters – possess innate "peace skills" rooted in empathy and connection. Calling for faith-based unity and education for peace, she urges humanity to replace confrontation with conversation, ensuring that every dialogue becomes a seed of healing, understanding, and hope for future generations.

Ms. Fatma Karaj, Head of Women's Office Muslim Community, Albania

The speech **"Interfaith Harmony in Albania and the Role of the Women's Office in KMSH"** by Fatma Karaj highlights Albania's long-standing tradition of religious tolerance and peaceful coexistence. It explains that dialogue between people of different faiths, based on mutual respect, fosters cooperation and harmony – values deeply rooted in Islam. Albania stands as a unique Balkan example of interfaith unity, where diverse religious communities have lived peacefully for centuries. The Muslim Community of Albania (KMSH) has actively promoted this harmony through educational and social initiatives. The Women's Office, within KMSH, strengthens these efforts by empowering women and building bridges among different faiths through projects, dialogue, and support for vulnerable groups, including women returning from conflict zones and prison inmates. Karaj concludes that interfaith harmony requires daily cultivation and that women play a vital role as educators and peacemakers in sustaining this value across generations.

Ms. Eva Cipi, Professor of Computer Engineering at the University of Vlora

The speech emphasizes that **religious coexistence begins within the family**, where children first learn values of peace, empathy, and respect for diversity. It highlights **Albania's long tradition of interfaith harmony**, where Muslims, Catholics, and Orthodox Christians have lived together in mutual respect. The **Universal Peace Federation (UPF)** in Albania is praised for fostering dialogue, moral leadership, and peace education, especially among youth. The address underscores the **vital role of women** in peacebuilding, portraying them as educators, moral leaders, and agents of compassion whose empowerment is essential for sustainable peace. It calls for active engagement and empathy to transform diversity into unity, emphasizing that peace is not decreed by governments but lived through individual actions. Ultimately, it asserts that **true peace begins in the human heart** – when people see one another not as strangers but as members of one shared human family.

Ms. Moriko Hori, WFWP International President, Japan

The Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP), founded by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and her late husband, Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, promotes global reconciliation and peace through the "logic of love." Rooted in Christian faith and guided by women's spiritual leadership, Dr. Moon's peacebuilding mission spans decades of interreligious and international initiatives. WFWP empowers women as agents of peace, emphasizing family as the foundation of harmony and promoting reconciliation beyond cultural, national, and religious boundaries. Since its founding, WFWP has established over 100 organizations and launched initiatives such as the Bridge of Peace, sisterhood ceremonies, and humanitarian service projects in over 120 nations. Through education, leadership training, and international cooperation – especially the dispatch of Japanese volunteers to 160 countries – WFWP continues to elevate women's roles in peacebuilding. Its global reach includes 128 chapters and UN offices in New York, Geneva, and Vienna, uniting women to create a compassionate, peaceful world.