

2014 Europe WFWP Annual Conference

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Welcoming Remarks

Lan Young Moon

Honored guests, and beloved WFWP leaders from all parts of Europe,  
I would like to start by congratulating all of you on holding the 2014 Europe WFWP Annual Meeting in this beautiful city of Brussels. And I thank all of the leaders and staff who have worked so hard to prepare this event. I think it is very meaningful to hold this meeting together with the World Youth Alliance and other partners, as a 'Global Women's Peace Network' (GWPN) event, under the theme, 'Youth and the Future Leadership centering on the Role of the Family.'

It is my great honor to take this opportunity to pass on to you the warm love and encouragement from our founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, whom we call Mother Moon. I also would like to convey to you the best wishes and success of this meeting from President Yun Ah Moon.

In the last twenty some years since its foundation, WFWP has brought heartwarming results in many parts of the world. It is my belief that these steady successes are really the fruit of the sweat and tears shed by our members. They have been establishing a real culture of peace in the world, in accordance with the teachings of our founders, our True Parents.

I'm sure you are all proud of the fact that WFWP Europe has achieved many milestones at the UN Geneva and Vienna, led by International Vice President for Europe, Mrs. Carolyn Handschin and others, and formed wonderful networks with various social groups.

Distinguished guests, and dear members of WFWP Europe,  
The inaugural assembly of the 'Abel Women UN' held in July of 2012, was the final international event the Rev. Sun Myung Moon, Father Moon, hosted on earth before his Seonghwa. In the keynote speech he gave that day, Father Moon emphasized that WFWP should rise to the next level, and work together in solidarity with not only women around the world, but also with various NGOs and

governmental organizations. WFWP should strive to achieve the 'world of peace with humanity as one family'. He emphasized that the mission of women is all the more important, because a true family based on true love is the very starting point towards this world of peace.

To develop this holy enterprise of the founders, WFWP members throughout the world have organized 'GWPN' conferences in the past few years, to promote the vision of the 'Abel Women UN.' In each continent and in each nation, they are doing their best to expand global women's networks for peace.

Last March, WFWP hosted a parallel forum and commemorative luncheon at the '58<sup>th</sup> UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)' at the UN Headquarters in New York. Among those who attended the event to give us encouragement, Chief of the NGO Section of ECOSOC, Mr. Andrei Abramov said that he was deeply impressed by the dedicated members of WFWP, and their amazing global networking activities. He even commented that WFWP is one of the best among the many NGOs in the world.

The UN proclaimed the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the year 2000, and it has continuously encouraged all nations and civil society to make efforts to achieve them.

In WFWP, the founders have also established the precious values and tradition of 'living for the sake of others' during the past 60 years, to build a 'world of peace with humanity as one family.' Our vision has been to build a world of Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity, and Universally Shared Values. The UN MDGs are included in these overall goals. And members around the world, who have followed the life of the founders in practice, have been working diligently in the field since the start of WFWP to achieve them.

Next year, the plans to promote the MDGs to the next stage will be announced, along with an assessment of the progress on these eight goals. Meanwhile, we will commit ourselves to ceaseless effort, so that the women and children of the world can be liberated from poverty, illiteracy and disease, and will be able to live free, safe, and happy lives.

Distinguished guests and leaders,

The 21<sup>st</sup> century we are living in has seen remarkable advances in information technology, as well as

amazing economic prosperity, unprecedented in the course of human history. The high-speed internet and mobile web access have made the global village a single 'global garden,' without barriers of time, space or national boundaries.

On the other hand, however, it is true that the surge of extreme egoistic materialism has caused a confusion of values, resulting in the break-up of families, and unconventional changes in family structure. There are enormous gaps between the rich and the poor, huge disasters and environmental problems. I believe that recovering our conscience and divinity today, as children of God is of urgent importance for us as humankind. We can strive for mutual prosperity together, with the true understanding that all humankind are brothers and sisters, and one real family.

In this regard, the 21<sup>st</sup> century is an age in which true, maternal leadership of women is very much required. At the same time, global cooperation among women is absolutely necessary.

Dear WFWP leaders of Europe,

As you know, I was a refugee who fled my hometown in North Korea during the Korean War in 1950. I have spent many more years in South Korea than I have in the North. I left a communist world that denies faith in God and freedom of humankind, and was educated in the world of free democracy where great values are upheld, and have lived a rewarding life. Still, I have shed many tears for my hometown and for the pain of my countrymen in North Korea.

Once, I had a chance to mention this nostalgia and pain that I felt to Father Moon while he was alive. Father told me then, that because we human beings fell, and lost God, our Creator, the Parent of humankind, and because we were expelled from our original homeland, there will always remain a deep yearning for our lost Parent and for our original, eternal homeland created by God, even when we visit our physical hometowns. What Father meant was, that the course of fallen humankind and our history, is an endless pilgrimage, to find our way back to God's original homeland.

Jesus came to this earth as the Messiah two thousand years ago, and he was the One who was to guide all humanity back to God, our eternal Parent, and to our original homeland. However, the Israelites, who were the central people in God's providence, failed to realize this at that time. Thus, Jesus walked the path of death on the cross, after promising to come again.

And after two thousand years had passed, our True Parents, the Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, came to this earth again, as the Lord of the Second Advent. However, the Korean people, who were central in receiving the Messiah did not understand God's Will, and so True Parents were persecuted and subjected to much suffering. Yet they triumphed over all such suffering and, finally, they established the great value of the True Parents everywhere in the world. They have sought out and restored children from all races and enlightened them to the Providence of God. True Parents have opened the gates to Cheon Il Guk, the eternal original homeland of humankind.

Dear WFWP leaders of Europe,

I first met Father Moon in 1955, when I was a young refugee girl, through my mother. Since then I have continued to take part in the peace movement of 'humankind as one family,' led by True Parents for fifty-nine years. Because I know very well that it is not simple and easy to achieve world peace, I wish to express my utmost gratitude to the members of Europe, who have overcome a great deal of hardship since the pioneer days. Especially, Europe has been a central region throughout all human history and when we see a bird's-eye view of Christian history, we find that Europe was a providential continent for God's History of Restoration . That is why the victory of the peace movement in Europe is essential for God's providence.

Even now, many powers with vested interests in the world do not know clearly about the Providence of God, and the direction of human history. Thus, they try to lead history, based solely on human thinking and judgment. I am confident, however, that they will surely come to realize the fact that when human decisions are contrary to the Will of God, they can only fail in the end.

Beloved WFWP leaders of Europe,

Throughout its past history of five thousand years, Korea has boasted a homogeneous race with 286 Korean family names. However, through the international marriage blessing ceremonies officiated by the True Parents, the number of international families has increased day after day. Today, policies regarding multi-race and multi-cultural families are becoming a major social and national issue in Korea. In recent times, this is a reality in other homogeneous countries as well.

This trend shows that we are headed towards the 'age of humanity as one family' or the age of 'One

Family under God', in keeping with the Providence of Heavenly Parent, the Creator, even though people don't notice it.

After being appointed as Special Emissary, I've toured many Eastern European countries, and I have even greater confidence that True Parents really wish to establish ever-lasting peace through interracial, and international marriage Blessings.

Still today, conflicts of religion and ideology and disputes of race and culture are obstacles to world peace, that have continued in many parts of the world. It seems there is no way to resolve these problems, other than through the spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation in love, and that is often a characteristic of maternal love. We know that it is absolutely impossible to achieve world peace through the power of a single person, a single organization, or a single nation.

Through the long human history, women have cultivated incredible patience, wisdom, and potential, while suffering under patriarchal social systems. The time has now come, to bring an end to the history of fighting and domination, led too often by men's logic of power. We can all pool our strengths together, to carry out the work of building a wonderful world of peace, as originally intended at the time of God's creation.

The culture of peace is nurtured through understanding, forgiveness, reconciliation and cooperation, transcending the barriers of race, religion, nationality and social status, based on true parental love. We should never forget that the origin of all such work for peace is none other than our own families.

The family was the foundation for the original happiness intended for humankind by God, the Creator, in the Garden of Eden. The family is the school of true love, where the pillars of happiness are built through the love between husband and wife. It is where the nest is built on the love for the children, and where the love of siblings shine forth in beautiful colors. The family is indeed the source of love, peace, and happiness, that we can all nurture. When such families come together, 'Cheon Il Guk' (or the Kingdom of God) is manifested on earth.

Dear WFWP leaders of Europe,

Mother Moon has encouraged us that we women, bearing the name 'mother', can embrace everything starting from our husbands and our children in our home, and furthermore our neighbors, societies, nations and the world. She has asked young women leaders to carry out diverse educational programs, services, and relief work in every corner of the globe, together with senior members. Through such field experience, they can gain conviction and courage in the fact, that we women can rightly establish our families, change the confused society of inequality and injustice, and build a peaceful world.

Dear colleagues, beloved WFP leaders and young members from all parts of Europe,  
I wish all of you have pleasant stay and fruitful result of this meeting. I love you all with all my heart.