

**Living Dignity in respect to
developing a peaceful and
sustainable society.**

**The Dignity of Women, a
Cornerstone for the Culture of
Peace**

**FOWPAL Summit on the occasion of the 64th Annual UN
DPI/NGO Conference**

Bonn, 4th September 2011

On 10th November 1998 the full meeting of the United Nations General Assembly declared the first decade of the 21st Century, the years 2000 - 2010

The “International Decade of a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World.”

- * 1: I will respect the life and dignity of each human being without discrimination
- * 2: I will practice active non-violence, rejecting violence in all its forms: physical, sexual, psychological, economical and social
- * 6: I will contribute to the development of my community, with the full participation of women.

* The Manifesto 2000

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PEACE  IS IN OUR HANDS

Ingrid LINDEMANN, who has signed the **Manifesto 2000 for a culture of peace and non-violence**, pledges in his/her daily life, family, work, community, country and region, to:



respect the life and dignity of every person without discrimination or prejudice;



practise active non-violence, rejecting violence in all its forms: physical, sexual, psychological, economical and social, in particular towards the most deprived and vulnerable such as children and adolescents;



Share my time and material resources in a spirit of generosity to put an end to exclusion, injustice and political and economic oppression;



defend freedom of expression and cultural diversity giving preference always to dialogue and listening rather than fanaticism, defamation and the rejection of others;



promote consumer behaviour that is responsible and development practices that respect all forms of life and preserve the balance of nature on the planet;



contribute to the development of my community, with the full participation of women and respect for democratic principles, in order to create together new forms of solidarity.

- * In 2000 the Security Council adopted resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. The resolution was a landmark in many aspects. It emphasized the importance of women's full and equal participation in all efforts for peace and security -- before, during and after conflict.
- * At the 2005 World Summit held at the United Nations, leaders declared that gender equality and human rights for all are essential to advancing development, peace and security.

- * Two-thirds of the world's 876 million illiterates are women, and three-fifths of the 115 million children out of school are girls;
- * Just 20% of members elected to parliaments (both houses combined) in the world are women;
- * There is no country in the world where women earn as much as men.
- * Since the founding of the United Nations, of the 49 presidents of the General Assembly elected since 1945, only two were women;

*** Reality lags far behind
the rhetoric of
declarations.**



Trafficking of women



* Rape as a weapon of



Prostitution



Enforced veils



Domestic violence



Child and enforced prostitution



Sexualized advertisement



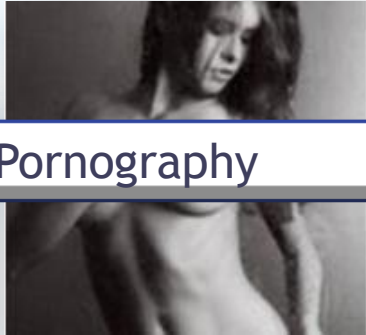
FGM: female genital mutilation



Widow burning



Sexual discrimination and harrasement at work



Pornography



Honour killings



* WFWPI in Europe meets annually with this very theme



2011, May- Spain, San Lorenzo del Escorial



* Dresden 2010: The Global Era and women's leadership Empowering women to form alliances to create a culture of peace



WFWP Europe conferences on dignity

- Empowering Women for Peace Building
- Commemorating the Decade for Peace and Non Violence for the Children of the World
- Promoting Human Dignity to prevent trafficking and addiction: 60 years of the UDHR (10th

Alliances for a Culture of Peace

Concluding the UNESCO Decade
of the Culture of Peace :
New Alliances to fulfil MDG 3
PARIS JUN 2009



WOMEN'S FEDERATION FOR WORLD PEACE

Concluding the UNESCO Decade
of the Culture of Peace :
New Alliances to fulfil MDG 3
PARIS JUN 2009



ances to fulfil MDG 3
2009



* Paris -
WFWP
Europe
Confere
nce
2009



UN 54th Session of the CSW, Parallel Event
Sharing of Good Practices to Achieve MDG Number 3



- * The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (adopted in 1993) stated that the human rights of women and the girl-child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of human rights
- * Gender equality refers to the equal valuing of the roles of women and men

*** Gender equality is, first and foremost, a human right**

Some names that stand for many

- *Margarete Porete*
- *Christine de Pizan*
- *Hildegard von Bingen*
- *Elisabeth von Thüringen*
- *Annunziata von Schiommaro*
- *Margaret Cavendish*
- *Olympe de Gouges*
- *Mary Wollstonecraft*
- *Harriet Beecher - Stowe*
- *Eleanor Roosevelt*
- *Bertha von Suttner*
- *Helen Keller*
- *Klara Zetkin*
- *Mutter Teresa*
- *Rigoberta Menchú Tzon*
- *Wangari Maathai*
- *Shirin Ebadi*

* Women have
 courageously fought for
 equality and recognition



*“No-one is served well by such thinking. I would like to set this direction of feminism against power feminism. Its basis is tolerance and respect for feminine individuality and sees itself as feminism of optimism and strength.”
Naomi Wolf in her book “The Strength of Women



*The first step an individual takes in the direction of wholeness is self-respect and self-determination. If a woman has achieved determination within herself, the next step must be to use the power of this self-determination to claim back another, socially important and complex, right that is serious and potentially dangerous - the right to take the reins of power and to exercise them, not just for herself but also to change the environment and put her mark on the map. “ *Gloria Steinem in her book “Revolution from Within*

*We find ourselves at a point where our inner development stands in direct connection with our influence on society. In other words, as soon as we have discovered the dignity and value within us, we live it, we carry it out to the world and begin to invest ourselves in society with our individual and different capabilities and interests.

* Definition of „ Dignity of the human being“



- * The first to have formulated the term ‘dignity of the human being’ was the renaissance-philosopher Pico della Mirandola. In his speech ‘De hominis dignitate’ (Meaning from Latin “About the dignity of the human being” 1486/87), he shows that man is free to determine his nature in accordance with his own will.



* “Man honours the dignity of humanity through his/her own person, has the right to have the humanity within his own person experience the respect given to it by other people and is, in turn, obliged to respect the humanity in those nearest to him...”

* **Immanuel Kant**

- * It is the time to learn to cherish ourselves and realise that we possess special values, capabilities and talents which our society desperately needs.
- * Becoming aware of our specific feminine qualities will strengthen our self-respect and understanding, that without women and feminine qualities in men respectively, there can be no peace, and no sound development in the society and world.
- * As soon as we manage to embrace these qualities within our consciousness, we will find our dignity. The discovery of our qualities and development of our talents requires our concentration and investment.

* **How can we find a way
of relating to our
dignity?**

* Be authentic



To be ourselves makes us more amiable and endearing to others, because it is authentic. Only then will we be recognized as a person in her own right, respected, amiable, loved and trustworthy.

Our life is our unique personal artwork.

- * In Buddhism, deep empathy for our own humanity is a high aim which entails redemption at the same time.
- * Jesus said: Love your neighbour as you love yourself.



* **Accepting ourselves**

- * For centuries, feelings of guilt have accompanied women.
- * We are always very aware of our shortcomings, our guilt and sometimes allow this awareness to stifle us.
- * It is important that we forgive ourselves and do not remain trapped in feelings of guilt.

*** Do not remain trapped
in feelings of guilt**

* Exploring the aim of our soul



Once we have found the way to our inner queen dignity, all that remains is to discover which strengths, dreams, abilities and desires are within us.

I refer to this as exploring the aim or goal, of our soul which means to give a deeper meaning to our life, quite apart from the external responsibilities we have.

* “What, however, do we find when looking ahead? What remains to be done? Are there unfulfilled wishes lingering? What remains, is the longing for a world which is not dominated by fear, but, by the joy of living.”

Angelika Alliti, American author.



* **The power of a
personal vision**

*The greatest, internal
strength arises from the
power of a personal
vision

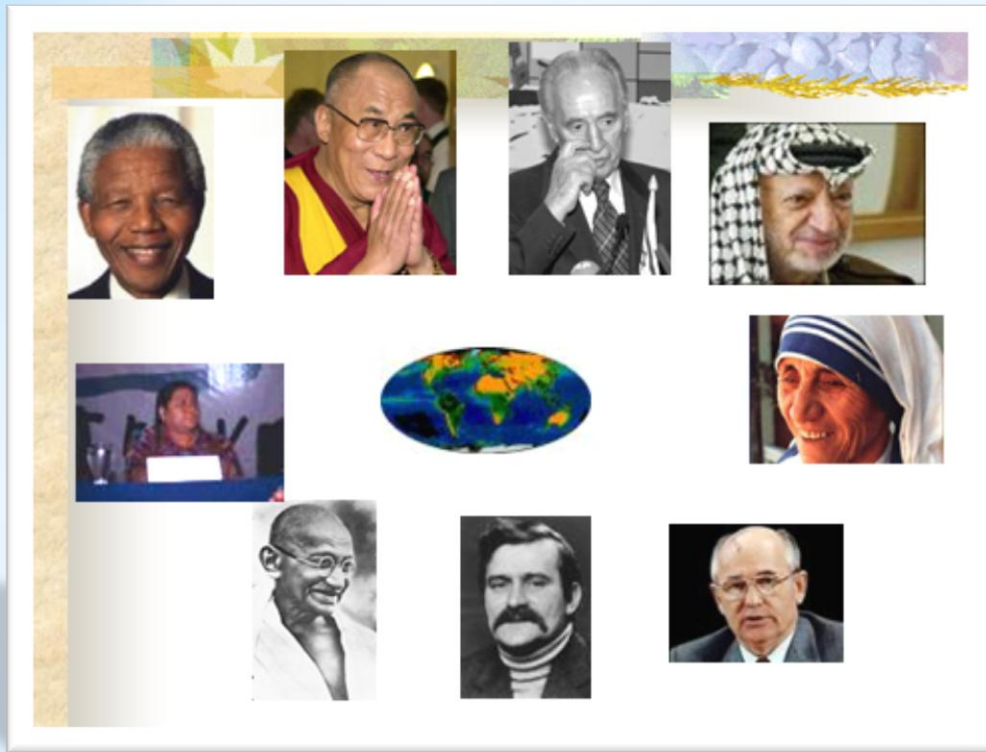
Visions and
desires are like a
fire within us.
We do not need
to fear it. Let us
set them alight
and burn
brightly.



*“Only as women and men together in equality and partnership can we overcome the difficulties, silence and desperation and secure the understanding, political will, creative thinking and concrete activities which are necessary for the global transition from a culture of violence to a Culture of Peace.”

A declaration from UNESCO on the contribution of women to a Culture of Peace

***The Culture of Peace is
a culture of synthesis.**



* “The future of the world depends on our willingness to really change.”

You have so much to contribute -- in leading by example, in raising awareness, in identifying women candidates for leadership positions and in helping us to be bold in our thinking. With your resources, your vision and your wisdom, you are all wonderfully placed to give life to the theme of this!

*** Raising awareness about and “living our dignity” are the first steps of any further steps, the cornerstones for the creation of a “culture of peace”.**

Let us start here and now!

I thank every one of you for your commitment, and I look forward to working in partnership with you

*Thank you very
much for your
attention.