



WOMEN2WOMEN Educate. Inspire. Lead.

A SPECIAL EDITION OF **EP NEWSGRAM**



SPECIAL EDITION, 2007

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Women2Women – Educate. Inspire. Lead.

Empower Peace hosted the 2006 Women2Women International Leadership Conference to provide leadership training to young women from the Middle East, Near East and the United States. The goal for this conference was to have future young women leaders from around the world learn first-hand from established women the skills and leadership qualities needed to succeed in today's world.

“The W2W Conference brought together some amazing young women from around the world. In addition to the leadership training they received, they were able to interact with their peers from around the world,” said Rick Rendon, Founder of Empower Peace. “This type of interaction and relationship building is one of the most important aspects of leadership development and public diplomacy.” *

Letter From Our Founder...

As Empower Peace transitions into what will be our most exciting year yet, we are continuing to develop new programs and opportunities for young people to become involved with our organization. This past August, 70 young women from all over the world joined together at Lesley University in Cambridge, MA for the first annual Women2Women International Leadership Conference. The conference was designed to offer a five-day intensive environment for young ladies between the ages of 16-22 to meet with, and learn from, established women professionals through a series of interactive workshops and keynote addresses. Additionally, the young ladies had the opportunity to learn from each other, as the girls represented a multitude of countries including Bahrain, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Palestine, Morocco, Jordan, Lebanon, Tunisia, Bangladesh, Canada and the United States.

On behalf of Empower Peace, I would like to thank our conference sponsors and program partners for their support and assistance in developing the conference curriculum and activities. I would also like to thank Harvard University, Tufts University's Fletcher School of Diplomacy and Lesley University for their commitment and participation in this important leadership conference.

The Women2Women International Leadership Conference was a great success for Empower Peace. We plan to continue to provide leadership training for all Women2Women participants through quarterly video conferences and live Internet programs.

A special thank you to all of the young women who participated in the first Women2Women International Leadership Conference. We look forward to seeing you all in positions of leadership in the near future.

Rick Rendon



Women2Women Home Stay Visit

The week preceding the international conference, Empower Peace sponsored a five-day cultural exchange program for young women from Bahrain and Pakistan. The young women were paired with families in Stoneham and Foxboro, MA, all of which had teenage daughters that had participated in Empower Peace.

“Although I've been to the States before, I've never had a chance to actually live with an American family,” said Dalal Sangoor from Bahrain. “The similarities between us, and the things we found in common enabled us to get along better than we had originally imagined.”

During the exchange, the young women participated in various activities in the greater Boston area such as a VIP tour of Fenway Park and a whale watch in Plymouth, MA. The whale watch outing proved to be quite exciting for the Pakistani delegation who all admitted that the adventure who all stated that the adventure was their first time on a boat due to Pakistan's geographical placement. The group also spent a day touring historical Salem, MA, visiting the Peabody Essex and the Salem Witch Museums.

“We can learn about other cultures through school, news, or the Internet, but to actually have relationships with people allows you to realize that yeah, things are a bit different on the other side of the world...but we're all just teenage girls.”

Kelly Landers

The home stay experience provided both the host families and their guests with a unique perspective of another culture. When asked about her experience hosting a student from Bahrain, Kelly Landers said, “We can learn about other cultures through school, news, or the Internet, but to actually have relationships with people allows you to realize that yeah, things are a bit different on the other side of the world...but we're all just teenage girls. I feel so blessed to have had the privilege of two wonderful girls staying with me. By the end of the week we felt (and acted) like sisters.” *

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Women2Women International Leadership Conference

The Women2Women International Leadership Conference was developed to give participants an opportunity to further develop their leadership skills. Working with women leaders from Massachusetts and elite educational institutions such as Harvard University and the Fletcher School at Tufts University, Empower Peace was able to develop a

comprehensive five-day program that included interactive workshops, panel discussions and keynote addresses.

“With the help of our program partners, we were able to develop a conference that would teach the young women about leadership development and the challenges and responsibilities associated with being a leader. We wanted them to hear from successful

women about their experiences and the obstacles they overcame to be in the position they are today,” said Tricia Raynard, Executive Director of Empower Peace.

The workshops and panel discussions covered everything from conflict resolution, the art of negotiation, career development, and how to manage a family and career. “Cultural insights are indeed a top priority,” said Assra Jafri from Pakistan, “but as a business student, it is incredible to hear these women talk about their own experience. It is something you don’t get to hear about every day.” ❄

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Tricia Raynard,
Executive Director, Empower Peace

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Conference Highlights

Young Leaders Learn the Value of Conflict Resolution and Negotiation

The Women2Women Conference began with a special screening and discussion of “The Fire Next Time,” a documentary that focused on the importance of conflict resolution. Over a stormy two-year period, “The Fire Next Time” followed a deeply divided group of Flathead Valley, Montana citizens caught in a web of conflicts intensified by rapid growth and the power of talk radio.

The film, hosted by Susan Hackley, the Director of the Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School, underscored the importance of leadership, clear communication and conflict resolution. After viewing the film, the participants engaged in a lively discussion about the issues portrayed in the documentary and what community leaders could have done differently prevent the intense conflict that ensued.

The following day, Susan Hackley led another important discussion about the art of negotiation. Participants learned why negotiation is a core leadership skill and how they could be a better negotiator. The workshop included negotiation exercises and a discussion about the importance of preparation and process in negotiation and the ways in which women succeed and fail as negotiators. ❄



Journalism Panel Covers War in the Middle East

In response to the need for dialogue about the fast changing media realm in the Middle East, participants of the Women2Women Conference participated in a multi-level media workshop at the Fletcher School at Tufts University. Simultaneously, conference attendees were connected with a panel of esteemed journalists and with a delegation of young women in Pakistan through video conferencing.



Facilitated by award-winning journalist Jane Christo, the media panel consisted of personalities representing the world over, from the BBC and GEO TV to the *Boston Globe*.

During the workshop, students engaged in an open dialogue with the media professionals about news coverage in the Middle East. Topics varied from how journalists select their individual stories to the important role that the media plays in the Middle East. ❄

Regional Conflict Plays Itself Out

“Motherblood” was a short play performed by Saphira Linden and Susan Nisenbaum that highlighted the important role that communication and conflict resolution play in leadership development.



“Motherblood” is the story of two mothers, one Palestinian and the other Israeli, both of whom have survived significant losses in the midst of the ongoing war in the region. The play quickly captured the attention of the audience and emotions ran high as the dialogue intensified. One conference participant originally from Gaza City commented that the performance was an accurate account of how an interaction between two similar women would generally take place. The conclusion of the play was left open to the audience. Audience members were asked to form groups and develop the final scene of the play. This interactive piece of the performance allowed participants to use their creativity and conflict resolution skills in developing the conclusion of the play. ❄

Women2Women Through My Eyes

Halla Al-Safadi - Gaza City

I was fortunate enough to be chosen to attend the Women2Women Leadership Conference and Cultural Exchange in Boston. Attending this conference was really the best experience of my life. It gave me the opportunity to learn, network and acquire the leadership and professional development skills I will need to succeed as a future leader. We had the chance to meet with national and international women leaders, and from them I was able to see that women have the power to change the world and accomplish whatever they set their minds to.



The conference taught me many things, but above all I learned that good leaders are sometimes followers; and that good relationships, and the ability to be flexible are also qualities a leader must have. In addition, I learned to always ask myself why things are the way they are, and to think of how I can positively affect change.

In conclusion, I believe that I am very lucky to have such a wonderful host family and friends during my stay. Being able to trust your abilities to face problems while living in a different culture and learning from others really makes life more enjoyable! Making peace is the duty of this younger generation. Even if today’s governments don’t always make peace, we are tomorrow’s leaders who will make it happen. I would really like to thank each person who supported me in my family, my host family, my school, and the W2W staff for giving me this great opportunity and for sharing their life experience with me. ❄

Women In Government

Conference participants were treated to an insider’s day of how government functions in Massachusetts. In keeping with the theme of the day, Women in the Legislature, the young women spent the day at the State House taking in all it has to offer and much, much more!



The day started with a tour of the historical building and ended at the Grand Staircase where a keynote address was given by Shannon O’Brien, a former Massachusetts State Treasurer and the current CEO of the Girl Scouts, Patriots Trail Council.



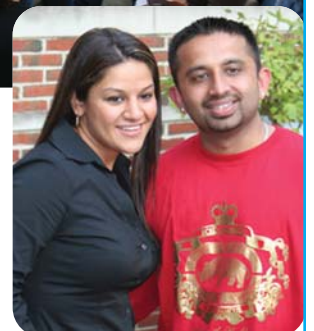
In the afternoon, participants joined Senators Joan Menard and Diane Wilkerson, as well as House Representatives Marie St. Fleur, Pat Haddad and Martha Walz inside the Senate Chamber for an important discussion about leadership and the growing role women play in government.

“It was really a great pleasure to meet the young women,” said Senator Joan Menard. “They are all so bright and interesting which made it a wonderful experience.” ❄



Final BBQ Adds Cultural Flavor

Participants of the Women2Women Conference were treated to an American style barbeque on the last full night of the conference featuring JAMN 94.5 FM’s DJ Pup Dawg on the turntables. The young women were joined by host families, speakers, Lesley University staff and the Empower Peace staff for a night of food, dancing and lots of fun. The music reflected the global diversity represented at the conference with a mix of Pop, Reggae, Arabic, Pakistani and Latin music selections. The young ladies also joined together to take part in a traditional Middle-Eastern celebration dance called ‘Dabke’. The evening served as an enjoyable wrap-up to an amazing conference. ❄



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Peace Talk with Diane Caldwell



Empower Peace sat down with Co-Chair of the Women2Women International Leadership Conference to gather her thoughts about Empower Peace and the Women2Women program.

Empower Peace (EP): What has been your impression of Empower Peace, specifically the Women2Women Conference?

Diane Caldwell (DC): I've been incredibly impressed with the fact that an organization is thinking about women, specifically young women, and trying to get them to understand the importance of education and leadership. You don't need to solve problems and conflicts with anger and war. That fact that we want to improve self-esteem (think "little engine that could") means these young ladies will be better off in the future.

EP: What benefits do you believe Empower Peace has for academic professionals and their students?

DC: Empower Peace allows students to engage in a broader range of thinking with much more diversity. It creates a place where students can better understand different cultures and see that there are other countries that exist in the world; things don't always revolve around the US. There are other countries making contributions and have many things in common, especially in arts and music.

"Empower Peace allows students to engage in a broader range of thinking with much more diversity. It creates a place where students can better understand different cultures and see that there are other countries that exist in the world."

Diane Caldwell

EP: Why do you believe it is important for programs to address young women specifically?

DC: Even today young women live in a man's world. They need to know they can make a difference and that women who stay home and have children can still make changes. It begins with education and feeling good about yourself. Women have always had better listening abilities and are often able to make changes with regard to the education process. It starts with teenagers and the age group being addressed at the conference.

EP: Why do you believe it is important to hold forums such as W2W with such a diverse group of participants?

DC: There are many important reasons. It's critical for students to see commonalities among other students around the world. It's also important to see that leadership and commitment does work. Young adults need to understand about other countries and learn how to listen. Making connections means making a difference and helping build self esteem. *

Where Are They Now?



Assra Jafri, Pakistan

W2W paved the way for new dimensions in my life and with this positive learning I plan to pursue my MBA with a dream to establish a school for the underprivileged in my society to improve not only as an individual but as a social group.



Fatima Al Gharbi, Bahrain

I am currently enrolled in school, it is my 11th year. Although I am under the pressure of studying, I have never forgotten the lovely moments I had at W2W. W2W taught me how to become a leader, how to deal with people from every walk of life, how to overcome the dilemmas, how to improve my skills and prove who I am. Therefore after all that I have learned from this amazing conference I decided to walk on. I have participated in the UN Human Rights Video Conference which discussed this year the migration issue and also have been a delegate in the Young Leader Council here in Bahrain. Last but not least, I'm proud of being a member in the W2W family.



Elizabeth Kelly, USA

I am currently in my senior year of high school, excited for graduation and the prom this spring! My favorite subject is English, because I love to write. After school, I am looking forward to attending college in the fall majoring in computer technology.

We want to hear from you. Let us know where you are now by emailing Mariam Abdoo at mabdoo@empowerpeace.org

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Applications for the 2007 Women2Women International Leadership Conference will be available on April 2, 2007 at www.EmpowerPeace.org.

Completed applications are due by April 30, 2007.