

## Women in India: between tradition and modernity

Madrid, Spain, 23. November 2013



The Women's Federation for World Peace Spain and the Universal Peace Federation, in collaboration with Vicente Ferrer Foundation, Akshy Association, SOS Mujer, Colores de Calcuta Association and India Project Association held an event dedicated to the Indian women under the title "Women in India: between tradition and modernity".

Marcia de Abreu, WFWP Spain President, offered welcoming words (see web page) to the event.

It consisted of two panels about the following themes:

1. Strengthening women's rights in India and
2. The role of religions in promoting change and cultural renewal.

Each panel had three speakers: Ana de la Heras, Asociación Akshy-India; Montse Ortiz, Fundación Vicente Ferrer and María de Muns, Colores de Calcuta in the first panel, moderated by Alexandra Oleinika, artista. In the second panel we had Sarabjit Khalsa, Khalsa Council (Sikhs); Ana García-Arroyo, Univ. Rovira i Vigili and writer; Eva Borreguero

Sancho, Madrid Complutense University, moderated by Sharmini, artist.

After sharing a wonderful Ayurvedic Indian food prepared for lunch by a Hare Krishna restaurant, the program went on with the ceremony of sisterhood through the Bridge of Peace crossing. Carmen Escobedo Tapia, Professor at Oviedo University, made a poetic and meaningful presentation about the value of crossing bridges in our lives and connected it to some English literature produced in India.

The participants, both men and women, crossed the bridge beautifully created on the stage and symbolically became sisters -or brothers- and in that way sealed their commitment to open up to the world, specially to Indian women, and together contribute to build a world of peace and cooperation.

After an outstanding performance of Indian dance by Sharmini Tharmaratnan, Armando Lozano, UPF director, offered closing remarks reading inspirational words by Sri Rama Krishna.