



The 4th World Conference of Women's Shelters

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DR Congo's Safe Shelter Transforms Pain to Power

Congolese activist Christine Schuler Deschryver, co-founder of a shelter called City of Joy in the Democratic Republic of Congo, shared her experience on Nov. 6 at the 4th World Conference of Women's Shelters. She stressed that the community is a place that transforms pain into powerful motivation.

Deschryver explained that City of Joy has its own culture — one that is grounded in love, respect for one another, and the unique experiences each woman brings to the table. The philosophy at City of Joy is to put the beneficiaries at the center of all the services provided, she said. Together, survivors, shelter managers, and social workers work in unison to create an environment where victims have their dignity restored on the path to their true selves.

The Democratic Republic of Congo has been named the rape capital of the world, and yet people like Deschryver have not lost hope in it, creating instead a transformational leadership community of women who have survived violence.

Prior to her work in the Congo, the activist has worked as a teacher and an administrator for CARE in Canada and the German Technical Cooperation for 13 years, gaining valuable experience and connections that were applied towards establishing City of Joy and coordinating campaign activities on the local, provincial, and national level. Under her leadership, City of Joy has seen 1,204 survivors graduate from its program and the community of women does not plan to stop there.

As an avid advocate for Congolese women's rights,



Activist Christine Schuler Deschryver, City of Joy co-founder, discusses her experiences.

Deschryver also works closely with Eve Ensler, founder of the V-Day anti-violence movement, and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Dr. Denise Mukwege to bring solutions to challenges faced by Congolese women.

Yalitza Aparicio, from 'Roma' Nanny to Gender Equality Advocate

"Allocation is the solution to fighting gender discrimination and it requires teamwork," said Mexican actress Yalitza Aparicio at the second 4WCWS plenary session on Nov. 6. In her speech, she discussed ways of using the arts to stop gender-based violence, prevent sexual harassment in workplaces, change opinions, and even raise funds.

During her 20-minute speech, the Oscar-nominated actress shared her thoughts and personal experiences on gender discrimination, especially



in the workplace, as well as how she overcame such challenges.

"No one can judge me, because I am the only one who knows my past and I am the only one who knows what I am capable of," said the 25-year-old actress, adding that she encourages all female figures to be brave and speak up for their fellow women.

Aparicio made history as the first indigenous Latin American artist to be nominated for best actress at the Academy Awards this year for her performance in the film "Roma" — in which she speaks in Mixteco, an indigenous language,

◀ Oscar-nominated actress Yalitza Aparicio shares her personal thoughts on combating gender discrimination.

and in Spanish. In the movie, Aparicio plays Cleo, a nanny and housekeeper for an upper-middle-class family in Mexico City and the story is told through her eyes.

Aparicio, who was named a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Indigenous Peoples last month, also spoke about how being a celebrity helps her use her voice to advocate for women, and stressed that she often shares her experiences and stories as examples to motivate others.

The ideal future for women is one in which we achieve gender equality, stated Aparicio, adding that women should always have the same rights and the same opportunities as men. In the workplace, a future in which women receive just and equal pay and are compensated for their contributions would be a good start.

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Speakers Share Shelter Experiences from Singapore and Nigeria

Speakers from Singapore and Nigeria shared their experiences at a joint workshop held in Kaohsiung on Nov. 6 as part of the 4th World Conference of Women's Shelters.

Women from different countries were busy participating in a variety of workshops on the second day of the conference. Lorraine Lim, manager of the Star

Shelter in Singapore, led the audience on an experiential tour of the Star Shelter, a service by the Singapore Council of Women's Organizations.

Lim introduced the Star Shelter at the 4WCWS workshop with a topic called "Walk in Her Stride." The registered charity with IPC status has been in operation since March 1999, serving about 120

women and their children annually. With a maximum capacity of 30 beds, it is the only non-religious women's crisis center in Singapore.

She explained that the shelter is a temporary refuge for women and children who are survivors of domestic violence. It is a place where they can heal from the trauma of abuse and be empowered to rebuild their lives free from violence. Lim used the personal tale of Rose, a survivor admitted to the Star Shelter, to lead the attendees to see the shelter through Rose's eyes, and walk in her shoes.

Speaking about the situation in Nigeria, author Caroline Ilogienboh introduced the work of Hope Rising Foundation, which reaches out to help more women receive education, provide counselling to victims, promote legislative change, and many other services. In addition, they also provide trauma-trained volunteers and advocates, support groups, and financial support.

In the future, the foundation intends to build a transitional home or shelter to help more disadvantaged women and families in Nigeria.



Lorraine Lim, Manager, Star Shelter, SCWO Singapore

Female Boxing Helps Children Recover from Trauma

Held in Kaohsiung on Nov. 6 as part of 4WCWS, the "Female Boxing Meets Women's Rights" workshop presented a new method in shelter management and social work, aiming to use the combat sport to help teenage girls release the stress of past trauma and correct behavior associated with PTSD.

Rainy Wu, a boxing coach with the Kaohsiung-based BTSS Sports Stadium, and Zi Jun Chen, director of Kaohsiung's Ruth Girls Shelter, jointly presented the initial results of the project in Taiwan.

Launched in 2017, the boxing therapy program is a collaboration between the Kaohsiung fitness center and the Ruth Girls Shelter, one of the Kaohsiung branches of The Garden of Hope Foundation, to introduce the sport to teenage girls staying in shelters.

This program is aimed at helping teenage girls believe in themselves and rethinking the conventional female-em-

powerment approach of "self-defense." Instead, boxing is used to help these girls "step away from one's old self" and "trust [in] female empowerment."

Boxing also helps to train muscle memories, sharpen reaction speed, and boost courage to face difficulties, explained Wu. She added that by boxing, girls who participate in the program are able to release both their stress and fatigue and heal their scarred bodies from their traumatic experiences.

After routine boxing training, participants then join a follow-up discussion on physical reactions, observations, life, and sexual experiences, said Wu.

All the girls who take part in the program are monitored with personal records carefully documented and safeguarded to evaluate individual outcomes and the impact of the program as a whole, she stressed.

Dutch Orange House Approach Backs Open Shelters

The 4WCWS workshop "The Orange House evaluated: how does the systemic approach in open shelters work?" shared research conducted from 2017 through 2019 on the innovative Dutch Orange House Approach, which provides shelter and care in a safe, but open and visible setting.

The Orange House Approach developed by the Amsterdam-based Blijf Groep has completely changed the way in which shelters work with victims of domestic violence and their families, said Essa Reijmers, a senior policy advisor with the non-profit organization.

The approach features a new type of women's shelter and new working methods that are very different from traditional shelters, which were often dark and hidden, explained Reijmers. Although such shelters are open by design, safety of the residents remains the organization's highest priority, she added.

In order to evaluate the program's impact, Blijf Groep has been conducting research and surveys to monitor all key indicators since 2010.

In 2018, the first result of the ongoing study showed that 75% of

the women in Orange House-style shelters underwent one or more traumatic incidents as youths, and almost 50% of the children of those women show signs of clinical or subclinical trauma. The data was presented by Katinka Lünemann, senior researcher and coordinator of the Verwey-Jonker Institute's Domestic Violence Research program.

In addition, a recent survey showed that the number of shelter seekers still experiencing violence has been reduced by half, and the proportion of children and mothers suffering from trauma has significantly dropped along with their need for professional help such as social work or mental health care, said Lünemann, who is also in charge of the Orange House evaluations.

Founded in 1974, Blijf Groep currently operates 42 crisis shelters, 5 emergency beds, 2 high-security locations, and 125 supported living locations in various forms, including 7 reserved for male shelter seekers, in the Netherlands. The nonprofit has assisted over 3,500 victims through its extensive support network and the Orange House Approach.



Opinion Leaders Sign Petition to Support HK Movement



Opinion leaders from different countries show their support for Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement.

On the second day of the 4th World Conference of Women's Shelters (4WCWS), opinion leaders from different countries joined together to show their full support for Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement, and denounce gender-based violence committed by the Hong Kong Police during the Anti-Extra-

dition Law Amendment Bill Movement.

Linda S.Y. Wong and Jacey Kan from the Association Concerning Sexual Violence Against Women (ACSVAW) described a recent anti-ELAB #MeToo rally in Hong Kong, and played a video of female protesters recalling painful experiences of being strip-searched by police. Lawyers

are questioning the police's motive in conducting strip-searches, since the detainees were not involved with drugs or other prohibited items.

In the name of law enforcement, the Hong Kong Police is using sexual violence as an instrument of intimidation, stated Wong. They intend to silence women

through sexual shame and humiliation, which violate a woman's right to bodily autonomy, as well as obstruct every individual's right to lawful assembly, she added.

Chairperson of the Global Network of Women's Shelters Chi Hui-Jung, CEO of Korea Women's Hot Line Mikyoung Ko, co-founder of DRC shelter City of Joy Christine Schuler Deschryver, and several representatives from Japan all showed their support by signing ACSVAW's petition and denouncing the use of sexual violence by Hong Kong law enforcers.



**SIGN NOW!
STAND WITH HK**





Press Conference: How #MeToo Survivors are Shaking up Asia



10:45-11:30@301 corridor

The global #MeToo movement marked its second anniversary in October. However when the movement made its way to Asia, it was relatively muted. 4WCWS is going to hold a #MeToo in Asia press conference on Nov. 7. In this event the #MeToo situation and challenges for victims in Japan, Korea, Malaysia, and Taiwan will be discussed. Please join us at 10:45-11:30 @301 corridor.

Study Tours (Pre-registration is required) Date: Nov 8, 2019 (Fri.) Meeting point: KEC Entrance

No.	Schedule	Time
Tour 1	Women's & Child Welfare	08:30AM~17:00PM
Tour 2	Tien-Ching Massage Center	08:30AM~17:00PM
Tour 3	Brilliant Life Middle-aged Women's Association	08:30AM~17:00PM
Tour 4	Fule Senior Citizen Center	08:30AM~17:00PM
Tour 5	Child Daycare Center	08:30AM~17:00PM
Tour 6	Fumin Elderly Women's & Child Center	08:30AM~17:00PM
Tour 7	DV Center & Family Court	08:30AM~17:00PM
Tour 8	Ruth Girls Shelter	08:30AM~17:00PM
Tour 9	Indigenous Children's Home	08:30AM~17:00PM
Tour 10	Tainan Social Welfare	08:30AM~18:00PM

11/07 Upcoming Events

No.	Session	Organization	Time	Room
1	Prevention+ Program: engaging men and boys to prevent violence against women – coming together to find common ground, create impact and show solidarity	Rutgers	2019/11/7 10:35	302B
2	Incorporating voluntary and mandatory male counselling to prevent violence against women into an Indonesian women's shelter : on-going results and challenges.	Rifka Annisa	2019/11/7 10:35	302B
3	Legal abortion in Italy and across Europe: what's going on?	Di.Re Donne in Rete Contro la violenza	2019/11/7 10:35	302D
4	Housing movements and women in Taiwan	University of Wyoming	2019/11/7 10:35	304A
5	GBV A SECURITY ISSUE, INNOVATIVE DIGITAL PLATFROM IN CURBING IT	YOUNG AFRICA WOMEN INITIATIVES(YAWI)	2019/11/7 10:35	303E
6	Women's NGO addressing VAW challenging the worldwide gender neutrality backlash against women's rights	WAVE network – contacts: Hilary Fisher (UK), Marcella Pirrone (Italy), Rosa Logar (Austria)	2019/11/7 10:35	302D
7	Empowering Women and Girls: Empowerment in Africa to reduce poverty and violence through a web based counselling service	Halley Movement	2019/11/7 13:30	302B
8	The Getting Home Project: Overcoming Barriers to Housing after Violence	BC Society of Transition Houses - Vancouver, Canada	2019/11/7 13:30	302C
9	GOHNY Safe House and Children/Youth program	Garden of Hope New York	2019/11/7 13:30	304A
10	Equality and Empowerment in Pakistan- An Experience of Street Children	Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child	2019/11/7 13:30	304A

Meet the Author Today 15:00-15:30 @ Booth B14-15 (The Garden of Hope Foundation)



Eve Ensler

Best known as the author of The Vagina Monologues, Eve Ensler has created another impactful work with The Apology, detailing the apology she never received from her abusive father.

Taiwan Foundation for Democracy 11/7 12:30~13:15, R301

Women's Shelters in Africa: The Plight of Female Refugees in Post-Conflict Situations

