

## **THE US FEDERATION FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE (USFMEP) ENDURES IN SPITE OF WORLD DILEMMAS**

The saying most suited to The US Federation for Middle East Peace (USFMEP) and its altruistic director and founder, Mrs. Salwa Kader, might be "It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness".

Since its inception almost a decade ago, The US Federation for Middle East Peace, under the capable management of Mrs. Kader, has inspired global humanitarianism and continues to shed light on many difficult world issues ; relentlessly bringing together people of different backgrounds and philosophies to a neutral ground to meet at a high level where emphasis is on commonality and where light diffuses blindness based on antagonism and dialoguing breaks masks of misunderstandings and misconceptions.

Through trained facilitation, the USFMEP uncovers mutual respect which is one of its primary goals. Most attendees of any USFMEP conference come away feeling encouraged, enlightened and with respect for the panel. The goal is almost always accomplished in those terms.

The USFMEP has had a presence in the US and in almost every continent with offices in the US, Europe and the Middle East. The mission to bring light and attention to our global humanity and human kindness crosses cultures and is a constant brightness burning through all hearts who strive for peace and harmony.

The USFMEP has had many cross-cultural and inter-religious dialogues at the United Nations. A recent Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist and Catholic/Christian conference received much acclaim. It accomplished solidarity of people who believe in God and/or ethics. It is very recent that this type of conference could exist under the auspices of the UN.

The achievement to have people of faith realize their shared mission and agree that their devoted underlying tenants of their faiths are similar is a very important stride toward world peace.

Another precedent was set with a recent UN conference on Women from The Middle East, Europe and the United States (opposing cultures and religions) where Mrs. Kader facilitated the sharing of values and integrity. Similarly was a USFMEP s Conference e on family values which was well attended and pointed out the fabric of how there are interwoven threads that affect the future of us all.

The USFMEP has and continues to fight for women's' issues. In less than a decade the USFMEP has seen its affect of dialoguing on the attitude of women, raising self-esteem and enabling women to raise their status through education and determination to have the right that they are entitled to have.

Mrs. Kader has brought global attention to human trafficking crimes and put pressure on those who have kept it in the dark. The USFMEP has also exposed abuse of children and unpublicized war crimes. Through its widely attended conferences, this exposure has promoted global assistance.

It is amazing that one woman through her own funding has accomplished so much worldwide and in so many arenas. The humanitarian energy to continue is robust as Mrs. Kader's conviction continues.

According to Mrs. Kader; "We are all now thrown together and we must get along and we must communicate and learn about each other and it is absolutely imperative that we find the means to live with one another if civilization is to survive".

Yes, the problems in the world today and especially in the Middle East continue to be disastrous. When last year's Bombay insurgence erupted, The USFMEP hosted a conference where Muslims prayed with a New York based Hindu Swami. The USFMEP had ground breaking news on the atrocities in Gaza and how the victims might be supported.

There are countless examples of how, despite the heartaches of war, the USFM<sup>EP</sup> continues to light candles in the darkness.