



International

News from the UN & Around the World



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A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JEAN QUINN DW

UNANIMA International represents 22 Communities of Religious Women in 83 Countries, with over 23,000 members, Partners and Collaborators We work at the United Nations on issues related to UNANIMA International's special Focus Areas: Women and Children, especially the Homeless and Displaced, Migrants and Refugees and the Elimination of Poverty in all its forms. Our presence at the United Nations is important to us and our membership as it's the place where we can raise our voices on behalf of the people who don't have a voice, and get their voices and their stories heard internationally. We take every opportunity at the United Nations to raise the issues affecting people we know who live in extreme poverty through written and oral statements, organized events as well as advocacy and lobbying with policy makers. It is a privilege to be representing our membership at the UN – carrying with us the 22 unique Charisms of the members. The late Kofi Annan, former Secretary General of the UN indicated in his time how important he saw the presence of people of faith if the UN is to be effective. He said "Religious can be agents of change and inspire people to new levels of public service. You can bridge the chasms of ignorance, fear, and misunderstanding that plague our world. You can set an example of interfaith dialogue, cooperation and respect – great words from a great leader.

We look forward to connecting with you BI- Monthly through our Newsletter. Let us know what is happening at the Grassroots in UNANIMA communities, and we can share it through the Newsletter.

With sincere thanks for all your support **Jean**

HIGHLIGHTS

1. Woman Of Courage
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6. Grassroots Stories
7. Resource Section

DECEMBER 2018, ISSUE NO. 1



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2018 WOMAN OF COURAGE AWARD



Maria Herrera Magdaleno



Presentation of Award

Speaker, Miguel Austin
Pro Juarez



Award Ceremony, Mexico

On September the 29, the Sisters of Jesus and Mary of the Province of Mexico-Cuba had the joy and privilege to be part of the presentation of UNANIMA's Woman of Courage 2018 Award to their beloved MARÍA HERRERA MAGDALENO, mother of four children who disappeared in Mexico. Maria asked to receive the award in the name of mothers, sisters, wives of thousands of the disappeared, women who like her, with pain, love and hope want to find their loved ones who were disappeared in a violent and cruel way.

The award was presented by Jean Quinn DW, Director of UNANIMA International in Mexico City, where more than 25 women with missing loved ones attended the event. Most of the mothers came from different parts of the Mexican Republic in which the violence is suffered. The Auditorium of one of the schools of the Sisters of Jesus-and Mary was host to this special event where more than 250 people attended.

After seeing a short and profound documentary about María, from the series Searchers of the Pie de Página, four speakers shared their experience and learning by accompanying, from

different perspectives this endearing woman, Maria Herrera. Among them a Human Rights, Lawyer, Mario Patrón, Director of Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez Human Rights Centre of the Jesuits in Mexico (PRODH) who focused on the dramatic and painful situation of the Disappeared in Mexico. Journalist Daniela Pastrana, Director and editor of Pie de Página, an independent media group, she spoke about how they are seeking to change the narrative of journalistic coverage, towards a focus on human rights, and citizens for the construction of peace, Artist Camila Villegas, a playwright and theatre producer spoke about having a focus on social issues, and her goal is to awaken awareness towards solidarity. Finally Juan Carlos Trujillo spoke, son of Maria Herrera, and with her he is the Founder of the National Links and Relatives Organization as well as the National Search Brigades for the disappeared, who shared the journey with Maria in the search for her four sons.

The most moving moment of the evening was the award ceremony. After a few beautiful words from Jean Quinn DW, on behalf of UNANIMA International the mothers, grandmothers and sisters who came to accompany Maria Herrera approached the podium amid hugs and

singing "Where are they, where are they, where are our children" "Son, listen, you Mother is in the fight" "because they were taken alive, we want them back alive!"the room was filled with tears for children lost.

At the end of the evening handkerchiefs embroidered by some of the Sisters of Jesus and Mary, with the names of the missing sons and daughters were shared with the mothers. To finish a blessing for this group of brave women pronouncing the name of each one of their disappeared children was made making their children present and honouring their memory.

-Sr Paola Clerico



Looking
to
2019

2019 Woman of Courage
Recipient Announced...

Mary McAleese, Former president of Ireland will be awarded the 2019 Woman of courage award in New York City in 2019.

Stay tuned here and on our social medias for updates!

Maria Elena, it is my privilege as Executive Director of UNANIMA International to come here to Mexico and present you with the Woman Of Courage Award 2018. It was important for me to present this award to you on Mexican soil a place of great joy and great sadness. When we looked at the nominations for this award we were deeply moved by your story and indeed all the mothers of the disappeared.

You and your family have lived with the tragedy of having lost four of your children, Jesus, Salvador, Raul, Gustavo and Luis Armando to enforced disappearances in the fallout of the Mexican "War Against Drug Trafficking", which was organised in 2006 in order to fight drug cartels but it has unleashed a wave of violence, insecurity, and human trafficking. In your transit through this deep pain, you have transformed yourself from a victim to a seeker of missing persons, a human rights defender, a promoter of unity, and mutual support among groups of families seeking a loved one who disappeared in Mexico.

Together with your children you have created the association "Familiares en busqueda Maria Herrera" ("relatives in search"), which aims to 'organize, embrace, strengthen, and empower people who share the pain of the disappearance of loved ones". You, Maria Elena have become a symbol of peaceful and tenacious resistance whose presence gives security and comfort to other mothers who suffer the same pain. With strength and clarity, you have led other relatives of missing people to confront the Mexican Government in many ways, including meeting Felipe Calderon in 2011 and joining the Caravan for Peace movement throughout Mexico and the United States.

In 2018 we are delighted and honoured to present our Woman Of Courage award to a woman who has demonstrated great courage in the face of adversity (e.g, from government, popular opinion, leaders,) that your action reflects and support the values and principles promoted by the United Nations.

The UNANIMA International Woman of Courage award is symbolized by a Flame, which captures the passion, energy, and commitment that Maria Elena demonstrates in her work for all the disappeared in Mexico. The flame is mounted on a piece of Oak from the mighty oak tree for its strength and endurance. The Oak tree is one that is directly and deeply anchored and steadfast amidst buffeting by winds and storms. It also symbolizes a perennial birthing of new life and hope. The copper plate on which your name is engraved is also a symbol of deeply spiritual values which underlie the passion you have in your struggle to overcome injustices, especially with the disappeared in Mexico. Your voice has become a source of hope and empowerment for all of us engaged in the same struggle,

It is with great pleasure that I now present you with the UNANIMA International Woman of Courage Award 2018

- Jean Quinn DW



Mothers of the Disappeared and Their Children

Woman of Courage Trophy

Jean's Speech

WHATS HAPPENING AT THE UN



NGO Committees Update

NGO Working Group on Ending Homelessness

This Working Group's focus is on measuring and ending street homelessness worldwide. Pictured below, this working group held an event on October 30th to promote awareness on the challenges of street homelessness for the UN urban agenda. The title of this event was: Ending Homelessness: Floors and Roofs for All in the Sustainable Cities of the Future.



NGO Committee on Social Development

This committee is a coalition of organizations dedicated to working towards people-centered social change and development through the United Nations. A current focus for this committee is preparations for the 57th Commission for Social Development which will be held from the 11th to the 22nd of February 2019.

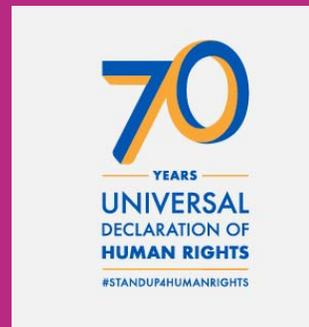
For more information on this committee you can visit their website: <https://ngosocdev.org> or search them on facebook.



NGO Committee on Migration

This committee's mission is to encourage the protection and promotion of migrants' human rights in accordance with the United Nations Charter. As a member of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CoNGO), we are in consultative relationship with the United Nations. A current focus of this committee is the adoption of the Final Draft of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) which is explained further later in the news letter.

For more information on this committee you visit their website: <https://ngo-migration.org>



70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

La Declaración Universal de los Derechos Humanos es un documento histórico, que sustenta toda la normativa internacional de derechos humanos e inspira la difícil situación constante de asegurar que todos puedan obtener libertad, dignidad e igualdad. La Declaración Universal de los Derechos Humanos, un documento hito, establece por primera vez los derechos humanos fundamentales a ser universalmente protegidos. Este año, la Declaración Universal de Derechos Humanos celebra su 70º aniversario. Las Naciones Unidas marcará el hito con una serie de eventos durante todo el mes de diciembre. Para mantenerse al día con esto, revise nuestras redes sociales, siga #STANDUP4HUMANRIGHTS, que hace un llamado a la gente a tomar acciones para

MEASURING AND ENDING STREET HOMELESSNESS WORLDWIDE

Despite its significant impact on both individuals and cities, street homelessness has been left behind in global debate. This global challenge is at the heart of current issues, including social protection floors, and is especially important as street homelessness is the clearest evidence that states are failing to meet their obligation to provide housing as a basic human right.

The United Nations NGO Working Group to End Homelessness (WGEH), the Institute of Global Homelessness (IGH), and the International Coalition to End Homelessness propose a renewed focus on measuring and ending street homelessness worldwide.



70th Anniversary Celebration Event

Migration and the Road to Marrakesh

2018 has been a big year for the topic of Migration at the United Nations. As a key focus of UNANIMA International this has been an incredibly exciting and busy time. December is no exception to this, with International Day of Migrants on the 18th and the Adoption of the Final Draft of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) at the 11th Global Forum on Migration and Development in Marrakesh, Morocco taking place on the 10th/ 11th. December. Teresa Blumenstein will be representing UNANIMA International and the Justice Coalition of Religious (JCOR)

On 4 December 2000, the General Assembly, proclaimed the 18th of December as International Migrants Day in response and celebration of the large and ever increasing number of migrants globally. Since, International Migrants Day has become an annual day to highlight the human rights of migrants, the promotion of migrants, their voices, and a celebration of the value migrants bring to their host communities. This year, the event will be celebrated globally with various events and celebrations.

Migration has been at the forefront of important topics at the United Nations for a number of years now and is likely to remain so in the future. The New York Declaration On Migrants and Refugees is an incredibly important document for the human rights of Migrants globally, as it outlines the political will of world leaders to save lives, protect rights and share responsibility on a global scale. Two processes emerged from 2016's New York Declaration on Migrants and Refugees: a process to develop a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and a process to develop a Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). All ECOSOC-accredited NGOs and stakeholders were given special consultative status for the GCM process and welcomed to attend negotiation sessions throughout the process. Hence UNANIMA was able to follow and engage the process regularly. Jean Quinn attended one of the first sessions held in Geneva, Switzerland. The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) development process was more closed to civil society and took place primarily in Geneva.

Throughout 2017 and 2018, UNANIMA, especially through our engagement in the NGO Committee on Migration, engaged in the consultative and stocktaking phases of the GCM development process. UNANIMA was actively involved and sponsored a number of interventions made throughout the negotiation period. In conjunction with this through UNANIMA's involvement with the NGO committee on Migration we had the opportunity to attend mission visits to advocate and discuss with Nation States about taking a human rights based approach towards the GMC. Negotiations of the GCM took place primarily at UN Headquarters in New York throughout 2018. Starting with Round one in February, continuing through to December where the final draft will be formally adopted during

A GLANCE AT THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION (GCM)



THE GCM IS:

- An **inter-governmentally negotiated agreement** prepared under the auspices of the **United Nations** and organized under **23 Objectives**.
- Aimed at improving **cooperation** on international migration.
- **Not legally binding**, but consistent with human rights treaties and fully respectful of States' sovereignty.
- Covers **all dimensions of international migration** in a holistic and comprehensive way.
- **Rooted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and aimed at maximizing the potential of migration to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Negotiated between 2016 and 2018 to be **formally adopted** by the Intergovernmental Conference in **December 2018**.

IMPLEMENTATION

- To be implemented by Governments in **cooperation** and **partnership** with migrants and all relevant stakeholders.

FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW

- An **International Migration Review Forum** shall take place **every four years** beginning in 2022 with the participation of all relevant stakeholders.
- The Forum will discuss and share progress on implementation at all levels and will approve an inter-governmentally agreed **Progress Declaration**.

[Click here to download GCM Final Draft](#)

MEMBER STATES' COMMITMENTS

PROTECT THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL MIGRANTS BY:

- **Objective 6:** Reviewing employment recruitment mechanisms to guarantee that they are fair and ethical
- **Objective 13:** Using immigration detention only as a measure of last resort, and working towards alternatives
- **Objective 15:** Providing access to basic services for migrants regardless of their migration status
- **Objective 16:** Empowering migrants to become active members of society and promoting mutual respect and understanding between migrants and receiving communities
- **Objective 17:** Eliminating all forms of discrimination and related intolerance against all migrants
- **Objective 18:** Investing in the identification and development of migrants' skills and qualifications.

REDUCE FORCED MIGRATION BY:

- **Objective 2:** Minimizing factors that compel people to leave their country of origin
- **Objective 5:** Enhancing pathways for regular migration
- **Objective 19:** Creating conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development
- **Objective 20:** Improving the remittance transfer process and migrants' access to financial institutions.
- **Objective 22:** Making social security entitlements and earned benefits portable
- **Objective 23:** Strengthening international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration

IMPROVE MIGRATION MANAGEMENT BY:

- **Objective 1:** Collecting and utilizing accurate and disaggregated data
- **Objective 3:** Providing accurate and timely information at all stages of migration
- **Objective 4:** Ensuring that all migrants, including stateless people, have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation
- **Objective 7:** Reducing vulnerabilities of migrants in countries of origin, transit and destination
- **Objective 12:** Increasing legal certainty and predictability of migration procedures
- **Objective 14:** Strengthening consular protection and assistance

ENHANCE THE SAFETY OF MIGRATION BY:

- **Objective 8:** Saving lives and preventing migrants' deaths and injuries
- **Objective 9:** Intensifying joint efforts to prevent and counter smuggling of migrants
- **Objective 10:** Acting to prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons
- **Objective 11:** Promoting bilateral and regional cooperation to manage national borders in a coordinated manner
- **Objective 21:** Facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration

NGO Committee on Migration: www.ngo-migration.org

the intergovernmental meeting days of the 11th Global Forum on Migration and Development, in Marrakesh, Morocco on the 10th/ 11th December 2018. This Intergovernmental Conference is convened under the auspices of the General Assembly of the United Nations and held pursuant to the "New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants" (19 September 2016) which decided to launch a process of intergovernmental negotiations leading to the adoption of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. The picture above is a one page introduction to the Global Compact on Migration that was produced by the NGO Committee on Migration. Please share this document with members of your communities working with / or advocating for migrants at the local, regional and national levels and encourage them to voice their support for the Principles and Practices within the Global Compact on Migration to their local Government Officials. Citizens and Government awareness of support for the Global Compact on these levels will be essential to the achievement of its broad adoption by the Member States in Marrakesh later this month.

For more information and further resources on this you can visit their website <https://ngo-migration.org> or watch this: https://youtu.be/LL87BK5OSz8?fbclid=IwAR3eUlfX96tN2eG__LQRW5uXs4ONdEv4eaur5NbFPmnNS2bIrtL9ci75Pw



International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, October 17th

"Wherever men and women are condemned to live in extreme poverty, human rights are violated. To come together to ensure that these rights be respected is our solemn duty."

This is the spirit in which the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty was commemorated at the United Nations Headquarters on 17th October 2018. Jean Quinn DW was part of the NGO Committee that worked to organise this event. This year, the commemoration was moderated by Master of Ceremony: Fatoumata Cisse from Hyde Leadership Charter School in the Bronx and Ms Rosa Almanzar from Project Hope in Boston. UN Secretary -General Antonio Guterres gave the opening remark. He emphasised that Poverty is not inevitable, and "ending extreme poverty is not a matter of charity, it is a question of justice". MS Inga Rhonda King, President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) emphasised that inclusive participation



of those living in poverty is at the heart of the mission of ECOSOC. Mr Francois Delattre, Ambassador and Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations, spoke about the importance of the partnership with people living in poverty. He also said that the fight for the eradication of poverty is the mother of the common fight for peace, development, human rights, and dignity. This year, ATD Fourth World delegates from the United States, Tanzania, and Kenya came to share their messages about overcoming poverty. They were powerful messages in showing the struggle and dignity of people living in poverty, but also brought a message of hope in how to fight against poverty for themselves and their communities. The Commemoration continued in the UN gardens. A group of dancers demonstrated the importance of coming together despite our cultural differences through the dance performances. The dance ended with the words of Maya Angelou; "We are more alike, my friends, than we are unlike". The ceremony continued with the reading of the text from the Commemorative Stone in honour of the victims of extreme poverty. The message written on this stone - proclaiming that extreme poverty is a violation of human rights - is no less relevant today than 70 years ago, when the Declaration of Human Rights was signed on the Trocadero Plaza in Paris.

The ceremony concluded with a very moving of participants coming together to perform a symbolic gesture around the Human Rights Tree that was made by the Fourth World Activists in New York. We were invited to stick leaves on the tree. Each Colour of the leaves symbolised a human right as defined by people in poverty and this gesture represented the hope for everyone having access these rights. The whole gesture was accompanied by the United Nations Orchestra.

DPI Event- Who Rules the World #Girlsrule

On the 25th of October the Department of Public Information (DPINGO) hosted an event at the UN in NYC to have a conversation on how women and girls have changed the world. The event highlighted the importance of empowering women and girls and celebrating their leadership and achievements in business, education, politics and technology. The panel members were a diverse range of women and girls who were all equally inspirational. We had the opportunity to hear the women and girl leaders share personal stories of starting their own organizations and businesses, how they have empowered other women in a variety of ways and how they are leading the way and using best practices to ensure future empowerment. While all women gave fantastic messages that left the room feeling empowered, one message given by Co-founder and President of the School of Leadership, Afghanistan (SOLA), Shabana Basij-Rasikh that stayed with me - "this is not something that we girls and woman can do alone, it is important that we celebrate girls and women, and we celebrate our achievements, but we must also celebrate, understand and invite men and boys to be a part of this conversation."

This message reinforced the fact that when we strive to achieve equality in whatever sense this may be, we must invite everyone to the conversation as without the voices of all true equality cannot be achieved. To watch this event visit <http://webtv.un.org/search/dpingo-briefing-who-rules-the-world-girlsrule/5853490364001/?term=2018-10-25&sort=date&page=3>

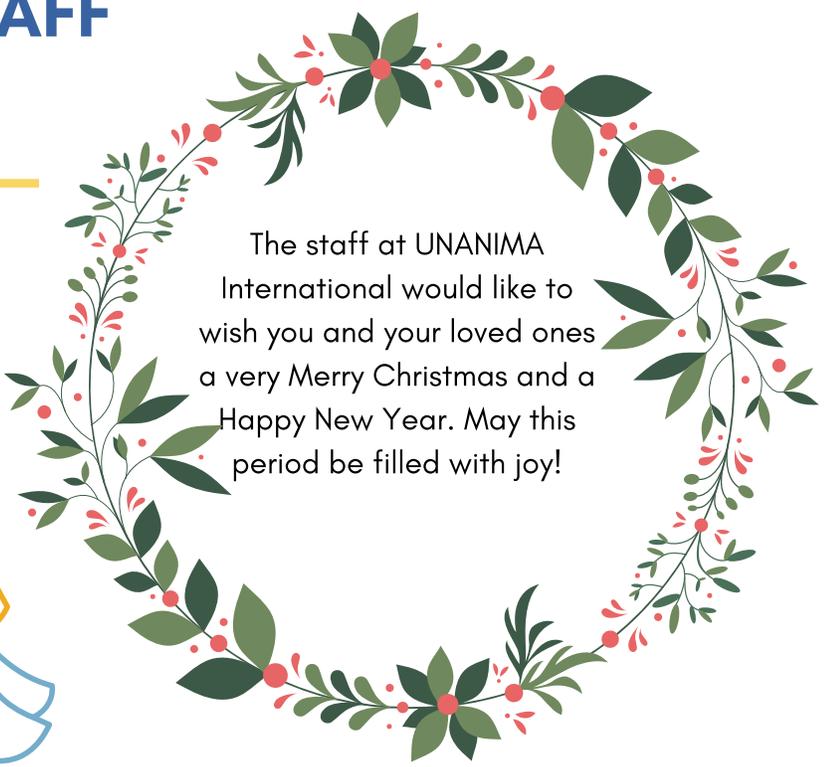




Top: Back Row -Anne McCabe, Cathy Sheehan, Pereka Nyirenda, Suzette Clarke, Ces Martin, Carol Regan, Barbara Jean Head, Fran Gorsuch, Josee Therrien, Ellen Sinclair, Maureen Foltz, Margaret Scott, Judy Culey, Susan Seeby, Karol Brewer, Front Row- Mary Akinwale, Jean Quinn, Lucille Goulet, Hortense Demia- Mbailaou, Janet Petersworth, Barbara Spears and Margaret Fyfe
 Bottom left: Molly Gerke, Executive Assistant. Bottom Middle Jean Quinn DW, Executive Director. Bottom Right: Catherine Ferguson
 Scholarship Intern September- December Pereka Nyirenda RSC

MEET OUR BOARD & STAFF

In 2018 UNANIMA International bid farewell and welcomed a number of staff and board members. We would like to thank all those whose time with us has unfortunately come to an end and share with you the excitement that we had in working alongside these wonderful new people. We welcome our new Executive Assistant Molly Gerke from Australia to the team, and thank Pereka Nyirenda RSC, for the valuable contribution she has made over the last three months as an Intern. As UNANIMA International grows in the coming months we will continue to update and introduce you to new staff and board members in this section of the newsletter.



The staff at UNANIMA International would like to wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May this period be filled with joy!

INTERN UPDATE

Pereka Nyirenda, RSC

My journey as an Intern has been filled with varied experiences. I suppose the words that come mind are a steep learning curve, interesting, touching and a 'call to see with new eyes'.

During my first month as an Intern, I grappled with the UN jargon, I tried to understand how the whole system works and where the NGO's fit into it all. Having participated in some UN meetings in the past, in fact it was 18 years ago and much has changed since then. Thanks to Jean Quinn DW, I had access to two manuals she prepared, the "Catherine Ferguson Scholarship Manual" and the "Board of Directors Guide to the UN" which proved to be invaluable resources that have become my constant reference. The RUN group (Religious at the UN) also put on an orientation day for new comers to the UN which was most helpful. All this combined with the opportunity to participate in meetings and events that were organized by the NGO groups, Civil Society and the United Nations. These events were key in helping me understand how the UN works and how NGO's collaborate and lobby the UN and its Member States in an effort to alleviate human and environmental suffering, especially for those left furthest behind.

I have been deeply touched by the passion for justice and a fair world that has been exhibited by some of the UN employees and Representatives of Member States at events/meetings; the courage of so many women and men that have come to the global platform to share their personal stories that call for a transformation of our world; and the conviction among so many actors that we need to work together if we are to bring about Sustainable Development.

The Irish Playwright and Poet, WB Yeats said, "Education is not the filling of a pot but the lighting of a fire".

I would describe my journey with UNANIMA International these last few months as an Education that has ignited a fire. I am most grateful to UNANIMA International for giving me the opportunity to have this experience.



Important Upcoming Dates

5th Dec	World Soil Day and International Volunteer
10th Dec	Human Rights Day
18th Dec	International Migrants day,
20th Dec	International Human Solidarity day
27th Jan	International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust
27th Jan	Registration for 63rd Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63) Closes
28th Jan	Registration for CSocD57 Closes
1st-7th Feb	Interfaith Harmony Week
11th Feb	Day of Women and Girls in Science
11th- 22nd	57th Commission for Social Development (CSocD57)

REGIONAL NEWS

One Spirit, One Mission, One Hope Workshop, Mexico

One of the goals of UNANIMA International is let our members communities know about the organization and how it relates to our work at the UN. The First Regional gathering took place in Mexico City when the Executive Director Jean Quinn met with the communities of the Sisters of Jesus and Mary and the Marist Sisters. The goals set for the event was to look at UNANIMA International and its Membership, Our Vision, Our Particular Areas of Focus, Our Work at the United Nations and with other NGO's, Our Hopes for the future.

We took some reflective time to look at how sisters and communities can get involved locally, nationally and with the office in New York

We spent time looking at the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and making connections with the Goals and UNANIMA's areas of focus for the next five years.

This encounter was a blessed event for all of us as we muddled our way through English, Spanish and UN language! The event was an opportunity for all of us to learn and share.

It is hoped this will be the first of many regional workshops globally.



International

Migrant Conference, India

New Delhi India played host to the Third Conference on Migration in the 21st Century – Migrant Workers an Asian-Pacific Experience. UNANIMA International was one of the Co-Sponsors of the the conference focused on Issues surrounding labor migration – such as the rights of migrant workers, high fees on wired remittances, and inconsistent policies across nations. With 161, primarily religious participants, the three-day conference brought people together from across the region. The conference facilitated an open dialogue that examined causes of internal migration in India, including climate change, environmental disasters, and religious and caste conflicts, as well as the desire for better job opportunities. Among various outcomes the conference called for the creation of a database on migrants and refugees and host communities. It is hoped that this database will be used as a tool to eliminate xenophobia and discrimination against migrants, stop trafficking, seal porous borders, and enhance consular protection and assistance. This was a very successful conference and attended by some of our members who live in India.



GRASS ROOTS STORIES

Gender Violence Workshop, Cameroon



"Gender-based violence is a violation of the most common fundamental rights in the world. This problem is a challenge for communities that must opt for a culture of silence that often leads to oppression and discrimination, especially in women ". On 26th/ 27th October, the Bikop Health Centre, led by the Servants of the Sacred Heart, organized a workshop on violence against women. This being a major challenge in Africa, where women are still considered inferior to men and often an object of pleasure, service and procreation. The idea for this workshop emerged from the sharing of many sisters, who were in consultations with women who told of their sufferings. The Workshop was held at the HILTON Hotel in Yaoundé. The workshop was a collaboration of many entities including UNANIMA International and Hilton International Fund.

Sr. Odile Coirier FMM, New York, who has great experience in this area agreed to come to Cameroon and facilitate the workshop. The topic of the workshop was "Stop Gender Violence- by eliminating all forms of violence." During the workshop the topics for discussion were: the Global situation of Violence, the UN, the Objectives of Sustainable Development, the UN and the Protection of Human Rights, the Social Doctrine of the Church.

Information on interventions as well as global data and statistics helped us to see the severity of the problem.

As well as Sr. Odile a number of other facilitators attended. Mrs. Rabeantoandro Manga, member of the Association for the fight against violence of women in Cameroon, ALVF told us about the different types of violence that are experienced every day in this country. Sidonie Lyeb a Psychologist who works at our Bikop Centre told us about violence in women from the psychological aspect, how to help women eliminate all kinds of violence and the need for psychological help in the recovery process. The Minister for the Promotion of Women and Families, Ms. Abena Ondoa, and Marie Therese, also attended, they told us about violence against women from a country perspective with country specific data. There was also a round table discussion with multiple testimonies.

On the last day, a session was held to develop a plan of action for the future to continue awareness on this topic regionally. We thank God and valued this workshop so much as it is important to sensitize women to the issue and fight against violence.

Aurelia Serrano, ACI Cameroon

RESOURCE SECTION

CIVICUS on Democracy

This helpful resource on democracy is in multiple languages. it can be found at:
<https://www.civicus.org/index.php/re-imagining-democracy>



Human Rights Toolkits and Resources

These resources were recently put out by the Franciscans in numerous languages. They are a great tool to help connect the dots and understand Human Rights. They can be found at
<https://franciscansinternational.org/resources/publications/global/?L=0>

