



Summer Reflection and Updates

My Dear Sisters, Friends,

Greetings from a very sunny and hot New York. I have now learned the art of “ducking and diving” to hide from this intense heat!

As we begin the month of July and take time to reflect and wonder on all that is happening in our world and indeed in UNANIMA International. We are living in unprecedented times where it seems like there is trauma, anger, frustration, and hurt all around us. I believe that as a people here in the United States and in our world wherever we are, we are collectively experiencing trauma on behalf of our sisters and brothers. We are experiencing the dismantling of democracy, the blatant disrespect for peoples lived experiences, the trampling of Civil Rights in the name of religious freedom. The descent into utter incivility in public discourse, and the physical and violent separation of families under the guise of “National Security” is literally traumatizing us. It is overwhelming our sense and our capacity for compassion and empathy. It is fatiguing our desire and our ability to fight and to advocate and protest. It is making it difficult to go on without either becoming completely overwhelmed by negativity or becoming totally detached and ambivalent.

So what do we do? What do we do when it all gets to be too much? What do we do when we feel like we just cannot protest one more awful thing? When our will to fight back is weak? What do we do when we can't enjoy our own happiness because we know there is so much pain elsewhere? When our vicarious trauma threatens to leave us a shaking pile of emotion in the corner, or a disassociated, unfeeling shell of a human? We stop, take a breath. We reflect. We pray. We share our feelings with our communities, friends, and families. We take time to cry, to lament. We need time also to laugh, to enjoy nature, to experience joy wherever and whenever we can. And we carry on. We get up each day and keep going – keep going on! Because we must. Because, like it or not, **we Have Power**. We have privilege and we have a voice and we have resources, and we must use them to help those who don't have those things.

No one can do everything. **But everyone can do something**. And we can do it together – that is the gift of UNANIMA International.

Take care of yourselves. Take care of each other. Love conquers all things.

UNANIMA News:

Admin Assistant – Ciara O Toole

We welcomed our new Admin Assistant, Ciara O Toole to UNANIMA a few months ago. Ciara is in New York with her husband Michael and three children. Michael O Toole is a Senior Diplomat at the Irish Mission. I did not go looking for an Irish person, Ciara just fell into my lap!! She is a great blessing to UI.

Teresa Blumenstein

Teresa left us very quickly at the end of May to take up her new role with JCOR. As you can imagine Teresa left a big gap in the office and not necessarily around the work, it was the loss of her presence here. She came to see me last week after I returned from my family vacation, she is trying to find her feet with JCOR, alongside missing UI.

Change of Office Space:

Our lease with Regus and the building we are in is up in July. After discussions in the office and taking into consideration we have no window/ no daylight we decided to move to 45th street and Third Avenue which is still with Regus and nearer to the UN. We applied for an office at the Church Centre but there is nothing available there. We move to our new office in two weeks' time. The office is located on 45th Street and Third Avenue. We will have more details at our September meeting.

Role of Executive Assistant:

We advertised the above position in May and received 45 Responses/ CVs. We have shortlisted seven people for interview. The interviews will take place on the 10th/ 11th July in New York.

Conference in New Delhi:

I was invited to be part of a nine person delegation going to New Delhi in September giving a workshop on Labor Migration. This workshop follows on from two successful conference in previous years, one in Rome 2016 and in Nairobi 2017. The aim of the series of conferences is to provide a space for women and men religious to share experiences in our common responsibility towards today's Migrants and Refugees. The goal of the series of workshops is to strengthen our responses at the grassroots, through workshops and collaboration, and to enhance our advocacy at the Global Policy process especially within the UN System. Among the many values of the workshop, they provide the opportunity for our representatives to connect with our people at the Grassroots. The topic for this conference:

Environment and Migration – An Asian Perspective

I shall look forward to giving you more details about the conference and my visits with UNANIMA Members at the September board meeting.

High Level Political Forum:

Everything in New York is now gearing up for the HLPF, a significant Conference in the calendar of events at the UN. This is the United Nations central platform for follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs, it provides for the full and effective participation of all state members of specialized agencies.

Antonio Guterres Secretary General of the United Nations says **“the 2030 Agenda is our roadmap and its goals and targets are tools to get there”**

UNANIMA International have Co-Sponsored a number of Side Events.

We are co-sponsoring an event with the International Presentation Sisters. The theme of the Side Event is:

Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals through Community Participation

Speakers and Story Tellers

H.E. Brian Flynn Deputy Permanent Representative to the Mission of Ireland to the UN

Shazia Gill – Pakistan

Nifa Viegas – India

Helen Lenegh – Philippines

Elizabeth Juliwa Rodrigues – Zambia

Moderator Jean Quinn DW UNANIMA International

This Side Event has a focus on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, and an Agenda for the Transformation of our world, and making sure no one is left behind. We feel that the participation of

people in general and grassroots communities in particular, is essential in any development process. The participation of the community in situation analysis, planning, implementation, and monitoring of the agenda makes the development process in a community sustainable.

This Side Event which will be sharing Models employed by Civil Society Organization's at the Grassroots across the globe in localizing the Sustainable Development Goals through Community participation for transformation of the world. We will share more about the outcome of the conference at our September meeting.

NGO Major Group Side Event – HLPF 2018

UNANIMA International are one of the Co-Sponsors of this event.

Theme: An NGO Toolbox to enhance implementation of the 2030 Agenda towards Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Many of us contributed to the NGO Major Group's official position paper for HLPF 2018. The Side Event aims to provide analytical, social, and political frameworks from a Civil Society perspective, to enhance transformation towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies at the National and Sub National levels. Three key tools will be highlighted 1) New regional and political agreements which aid in SDG 9 implementation; 2) Application of the interlinkages Principles, and 3) Influencing cross cutting issues. To promote a dynamic, interactive conversation, three discussion groups will be formed to explore each "tool" facilitated by experts and activists from the NGO Major Group. The knowledge exchanged between these groups will result in an outcome document highlighting the tool which NGOs across the globe may use to aid in transformation toward more Resilient and Sustainable Communities.

The NGO Working Group to End Homelessness (WGEH)

This group which I am a member decided that it was too soon for us a group to do a Side Event at HLPF 2018. However, we took the decision to provide a brochure on homelessness and the task of the working group, which at this moment in time is to influence Missions who will be part of the Commission for Social Development 2019. We are trying to make a case for the importance of homelessness and the raising of the issue in the United Nations Agenda. Our other idea is to get Countries thinking about homelessness as an emerging theme for the Commission on Social Development, with a focus on countries who will be part of the Bureau for the Commission (CSOCD) in 2019.

We have as a group targeted special events where we make contact with Member States on the above issues with a focus on SDG 11, 12. Six of us have signed up to work with the Missions on July 11th, 12th, and 17th.

So as you can see there is a lot happening in New York. We are also beginning to spread our wings in other parts of the world before the end of December, honoring our Root and Branch Review Action points.

Thank you as always for supporting the team in New York and most especially keeping us in prayer

Closing Reflection



*"Do not be daunted
By the enormity
Of the world's grief
Do Justly, now.
Love Mercy now
You are not obligated
To complete the work,
But neither are you free
To abandon it."*

- The Talmud

With my love, thanks and blessings to each one of you.

Jean

Jean Quinn, DW

Executive Director

Working on your behalf at the United Nations in New York