



## UNANIMA International News from the UN and Around the World

MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER  
Edition 21



### Executive Director's Reflection

Dear Friends,

I am writing to you with immense gratitude upon the conclusion of the 61<sup>st</sup> Commission for Social Development (CSocD61) at the UN. It was such a joy to have many of you join us for this year's Civil Society Forum on the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the NGO Committee for Social Development (NGO CSocD). Since 2006, the Forum has been a space for members of civil society to gather to learn, discuss, and strategize on the themes and deliberations of CSocD.

This year, members of civil society have been given more of a voice than ever. We are optimistic about our current and future possibilities for collaboration with the United Nations and all Member States. I, and NGO CSocD, are particularly inspired and guided by the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development principles and its Program for Action, along with the 2030 Agenda. As we are at the start of 2023, we feel the window closing for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The 2030 Agenda has only seven years to reach the important milestones set in 2015 and to achieve the pivotal goal of the eradication of poverty. We are particularly concerned with growing social and economic inequalities, growing hunger,

educational and employment losses, and the economic disruptions we face.

Additionally, every part of the globe has been affected by environmental disasters, massive migration of peoples, shifts in the digital economy, and the threat of nuclear war in the Ukraine. There are multiple causes, but certainly, the COVID-19 global pandemic has unraveled progress that was made in the last decade and revealed crevices in the foundational progress of the SDGs. Most importantly, it is people living in poverty who continue to suffer most and whose lives are most devastated by these events.

However, we are people of hope, and we know there are hopeful signs that the United Nations will lead us forward to a better world for all. This hope is supported by the UN Secretary-General's *Our Common Agenda Report* (2021), calling for a renewal of the social contract "so as to rebuild trust and embrace a comprehensive vision of human rights," and the movement towards a World Social Summit in 2025.

It is also in the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), surely one of the most remarkable achievements of humankind. The UDHR can transform our world and offer real hope to all those who long for the recognition of their rights to dignity, equality, and justice.

It is a privilege to forge a renewed vision with NGO CSocD and UNANIMA International during this halfway point of the 2030 Agenda. UNANIMA International's New York team and Board continue to put the mantra "don't talk about us, without us" into practice to build momentum and continue as people of hope into 2025, when a possible World Social Summit may be held. As we make our way through 2023, we acknowledge that there is much work to be done, but our commitment to collaboration, intergenerational exchange, and social inclusion is setting us on the right course.

Sincerely,  
Jean

## What's Happening at the UN



## 61st Commission for Social Development



The 61<sup>st</sup> Commission for Social Development (CSocD61) at the United Nations took place from February 6<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>. The theme for CSocD61 was “*Creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.*” This year, UNANIMA International was especially involved in the preparations for and panels during the Commission, as UI’s Executive Director, Jean Quinn, and Executive Assistant/Assistant UN Representative, Lara Hicks, both serve on the Executive for the NGO Committee for Social Development (NGO CSocD).

NGO CSocD organized a number of preparatory gatherings for the Commission, including a Breakfast with the Bureau of CSocD61 at the Baha’i International Community, a Networking and Orientation Session at the UN Church Center, and over 20 visits with UN Permanent Missions. Check out the photos and links for more information, as well as to view the recordings of the UNANIMA International team’s speeches and participation during CSocD61!



**Civil Society Forum 2023**

During the UN Commission for Social Development, NGO CSocD is dedicated to raising awareness on the Priority Theme and bringing the voices, experiences, and recommendations from the grassroots. The NGO Committee holds a Civil Society Forum and other capacity-building and networking events on the occasion of the Commission.

Event	Date	Time (EST)
Orientation & Networking Event	Sunday, February 5th	11:00am to 3:00 pm
Registration & Opening Session	Friday, February 10th	9:00am - 10:00am 10:00am - 11:00am
Thematic Session N°1 & Regional Groups	Friday, February 10th	11:00am - 12:30pm 12:45pm - 1:45pm
Thematic Session N°2 & Closing Session	Friday, February 10th	3:00pm - 4:30pm 4:30pm - 5:00pm



As the Chair of NGO CSocD, Jean delivered remarks on the opening panel of the Commission, alongside the Chair of the CSocD61 Bureau – Ambassador Al-Thani (Qatar), Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs – Li Junhua, and other high-level panelists. Jean also presented this year’s NGO CSocD Civil Society Declaration, which has well over 1,000 signatures from individuals and civil society organizations. You can read the Declaration [here](#) and learn more about NGO CSocD’s advocacy process [here](#).



At the invitation of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), Lara participated as a speaker on the Emerging Issues Panel. She delivered a presentation on UNANIMA International’s work, offered the civil society perspective on major emerging issues for the global community, and highlighted good practices for Member States to consider. Click [here](#) to watch her presentation.

UN DESA also invited Jean to moderate the Multi-stakeholder Forum for CSocD61. She facilitated presentations, dialogue, and a question and answer session for Member States and civil society related to the Commission’s priority theme. Click [here](#) to view the recording of the Multi-stakeholder Forum.



Jean in her capacity as NGO CSocD Chair, with Lara assisting the NGO CSocD Executive as the Civil Society Forum Chair, organized the Civil Society Forum during the Commission. The Forum gives civil society an opportunity to “takeover” the UN for a day, and convene panels and sessions related to the Commission’s priority theme. This year’s Civil Society Forum was the first to take place in-person since 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Below you will find more information about the sessions held for this year’s Civil Society Forum, as well as the links to the recordings of each panel.

- [Link to Civil Society Forum part 1 on UN Web TV](#)
- [Link to Civil Society Forum part 2 on UN Web TV](#)

At the Commission, a number of international processes were also under review. For a complete listing, please visit the CSocD61 website [here](#). The outcome Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Resolution on the priority theme of the Commission was adopted by consensus. You can read it at this [link](#).





## UN Water Conference



The UN Water Conference will be taking place from March 22 – 24 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The conference will convene a variety of stakeholders over the three days through different interactive dialogues, plenaries, and special events – all with a focus on Sustainable Development Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation. Additionally, civil society organizations have submitted applications to host side events on the margins of the conference. For more information, check out the UN Water Conference website at this [link](#). You can also access the full program of the Conference [here](#).

## 67th Commission on the Status of Women



The sixty-seventh session of the [Commission on the Status of Women](#) (CSW67) will take place from March 6 – 17, 2023 at the United Nations Headquarters. This year's priority theme is *"Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for*

*achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.*” CSW67 will hold general discussions, interactive dialogues, ministerial roundtables, and informal consultations on the agreed conclusions of the CSW67 Zero Draft Resolution. Side events are also being organized by many NGOs and Member States.

The NGO Committee on the Status of Women – New York (NGO CSW/NY) is also putting on an NGO CSW67 Forum in parallel with the Commission from March 5 – 17. Virtual or in-person participants can attend different events and view exhibits from civil society during the Forum. You can register to attend the NGO CSW67 Forum [here](#), and click [here](#) to read UNANIMA International’s written statement that was previously submitted for the Commission.

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## NGO Committee Updates

### The Working Group to End Homelessness



**NGO WORKING  
GROUP TO END  
HOMELESSNESS**

The Working Group to End Homelessness (WGEH) continues to play an active role in the different processes at the UN by organizing side events and holding regular meetings. For CSocD61, the Working Group and the UN Permanent Mission of Madagascar held a side event titled “The Struggles of Homeless Persons for Social Justice and Rights to Productive Employment and Decent Work in Achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” This event took place on Thursday, February 9 at 11:30am EST, and featured the following panelists:

- Vero Henintsoa Andriamiarisoa, Chargé d’Affaires/Deputy UN Permanent Representative of Madagascar
- Jean Quinn, Executive Director of UNANIMA International; Chair of the NGO Committee for Social Development; former Chair of the Working Group to End Homelessness
- Ms. Elizabeth Byrd, Leading Housing Justice Advocate at Unlock NYC
- Dr. Enemona Adaji, Representative to the UN for WorldWIDE Network Nigeria
- Moderator: Ms. Hanta Fida Cyrille Klein, Technical Counselor to President of Senate for Madagascar
- Facilitator: Dr. Ify Ofong, Representative to the UN for WorldWIDE Network Nigeria
- Facilitator: Ms. Lydia Stazen, Chair of the Working Group to End Homelessness

UNANIMA International’s Executive Director, Jean Quinn, focused her remarks on decent work and employment in relation to breaking the cycle of homelessness and promoting human dignity. Importantly, she points out that social protections and wraparound supports are not separate from employment and work opportunities, but rather can strengthen and reinforce each other in a person’s journey from homelessness. Click [here](#) to watch the full recording of the webinar.

## The NGO Committee on Migration



The NGO Committee on Migration has continued regular monthly meetings throughout 2023. UNANIMA International's Executive Assistant, Lara Hicks, is a member of the Subcommittee on Children in Migration.

For CSocD61, the Subcommittee on Children in Migration organized a side event titled "Don't Steal My Childhood! Child Labor and Children in Migration," which was co-sponsored by UNANIMA International in addition to 10 other NGOs and the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations.

The side event featured the following panelists:

- H.E. Ambassador Maritza Chan, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations
- Dr. Najat Maalla M'jid, UN Special Representative on Violence against Children
- Michaëlle De Cock, Head of the Research and Evaluation Unit for ILO-FUNDAMENTALS
- Nina Smith, CEO of GoodWeave International
- Two children from Kids Club Kampala (Joshua and Aidah)

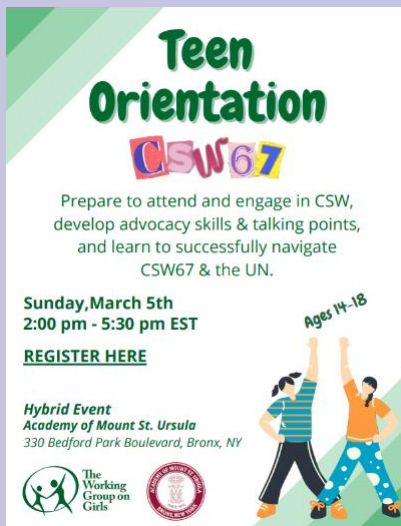
This event was greatly received due to the inclusion of children with lived experience of forced labor as speakers for the event. Additionally, the Children in Migration Subcommittee has launched an appeal on the subject of child labor titled: "A CALL TO STOP STEALING CHILDREN'S LIVES." You can view the recording [here](#) (Passcode: %X4X\$#0N).

## The Working Group on Girls

Currently, the Working Group on Girls (WGG) and different WGG member organizations are focusing on three different projects in preparation for the 67th Commission on the Status of Women. The first is "Girls' Caucus," which is an annual discussion hosted by WGG to engage girls on the topics of CSW67. The second project is "Girls' Statement Writing," a WGG initiative that helps girls come together and write a statement that will be read at the UN for CSW67.







The last project is a conversation circle in partnership with NGO CSW/NY – an NGO group that focuses on all things CSW for civil society organizations. On Sunday, March 5 the WGG, in collaboration with the Academy of Mount St. Ursula in the Bronx, will be hosting a CSW67 Teen Orientation for girls in the 14-18 age range.

Check out the flyer for more information about the event!

## IPA Publication Launch



The International Presentation Association (IPA) is a network of Presentation Sisters and Presentation People present in twenty countries throughout six continents, who speak and act in partnership with others for global justice through advocacy and direct service to people. In early 2020, the IPA identified “Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children” as its specific UN Advocacy Focus. The COVID-19 global pandemic, since its outbreak, only intensified and worsened violence against women. The confined living conditions of lockdown, with severe health, economic and social impacts, amplified existing inequalities and power imbalances and disproportionately affected those most vulnerable worldwide.

The current, second, IPA publication titled “Policies for Gender Justice; Practices in addressing domestic violence and gender stereotypes” places a focus on policy responses addressing domestic violence and gender stereotypes by the governments and NGOs in India, the United States, and Zimbabwe. The publication explores synergies and collaboration between governments and civil society organizations before and during COVID-19 aiming to address the issues at stake. IPA officially launched the publication during a webinar on Tuesday, January 17 at 9:00am EST. You can view the webinar [here!](#) UNANIMA International’s Executive Assistant, Lara Hicks, participated in an interview for this research. You can read the full publication at this [link](#).

## Grassroots Stories



### Sisters of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin: Sister Marie-Ange Turcotte honored by Nigerian immigrant community in Sudbury, Ontario, Canada



On January 7, 2023, Sr. Marie-Ange Turcotte, of the Sisters of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, was surprised by the Nigerian community who, at a special supper, dressed her in their traditional Nigerian clothing to honor her for her generous work and presence among them for the past 10 years.

Sister Marie is well known in this immigrant community. She is one of the first people called upon to help immigrant families get settled in their new lodgings. Today she is the coordinator of the St. Vincent de Paul group which offers furniture and kitchen items to immigrants. She tries to help people get the basics in their homes as they begin their new life in Canada.

Sister Marie says that there are many Nigerians as well as people from the Ivory Coast still coming into the area. They are hard workers and find jobs quickly, especially in the construction industry. Canada is happy to receive workers and facilitates their path to citizenship.

For Sister Marie, at 82 years old, it is a pleasure to continue helping people in this way. She hopes to do so for as long as possible.

*Submitted by Sr. Janice Belanger, SASV*



## Resources



[UN Secretary-General's "Common Agenda Report"](#)

[Resource List: Protecting, Supporting, and Educating Children In Migration, Refugee, and Displacement Contexts Around The World](#)

[US Trafficking Report records forced labour in UK and Ireland  
Report of the Secretary-General for CSocD61](#)

[Policies for Gender Justice | Practices in addressing domestic violence and gender stereotypes](#)

[FES Brief: World Protests 2021 - 2022](#)

[UN DESA World Social Report 2023: Leaving No One Behind In An Ageing World](#)

**Recently featured in:**



Our Publications: Click on the images below!



## February 20

World Day of Social Justice

## March 1

Zero Discrimination Day

## March 6 - 17

67th Commission on the Status of Women

## March 8

International Women's Day

## March 20

International Day of Happiness

## March 22

World Water Day

## March 22 - 24

UN Water Conference

## April 22

International Mother Earth Day

## April 17 - 28

UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (22nd session)



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