



UNANIMA International News from the UN and Around the World

JUNE 2025 NEWSLETTER

Edition 32



Jean Quinn

Executive Director's Reflection

Dear Friends,

As many of you know, after a long discernment process, the Board at UNANIMA International recently made the difficult decision to come to Completion. And so, as we reach the end of this particular journey, it is a moment to pause and reflect on the impact and challenges that have shaped its existence. UNANIMA International was not merely a collection of initiatives and programs—it was a movement, a force for change, and a testament to the power of collective action.

In the rhythm of life, there is a sacred flow: beginnings and endings, seasons of growth, and transformation. The Completion of UNANIMA International is not simply a conclusion of an organization, but the fulfillment of a divine purpose, a journey walked in Faith, Compassion, and Service.

From its beginnings, UNANIMA International was an instrument of love, guided by the belief that to serve others is to touch the heart of creation itself. Every project undertaken, every individual issue uplifted, every challenge overcome, has been a testament to the sacred calling of justice, mercy, and kindness.

In many spiritual traditions, there is a profound understanding that what is done in the service of others does not fade. Rather, it multiplies. Like seeds scattered upon fertile ground, the efforts of UNANIMA International will continue to bear fruit in ways seen and unseen. The people touched by our ministry will carry forward our message, embodying the virtues of compassion, resilience, and hope.

As we look ahead, we recognize that while UNANIMA International has reached the time of completion of its formal operations, the ideals and values it has promoted remain as relevant as ever. The people whose lives have been touched by our mission—whether through advocacy, education, or direct support, will carry forward the spirit of our mission. The impact of an organization does not end when its doors close; rather it is woven into the communities it has uplifted and the minds it has inspired.

The legacy of UNANIMA International is now entrusted to the hearts of those who believe that service is a sacred duty, that healing comes through collective action, and that love expressed through justice is eternal.

Sincerely, Jean



The Completion of UNANIMA International

At the Congregational Leaders meeting with UNANIMA International on January 8, 2025, the conversation focused on our future, given the diminishment and completion issues many congregations are now facing, and the lack of personnel and financial resources available for UI. The questions we were asked were: “what is the spirit calling us to now? Are we at a transitional moment?” We were tasked to determine whether we are observing “completion” or a “transition to something else.”

The Board of Directors undertook a two-day discernment process at its February 2025 Board Meeting. The discernment facilitator engaged the Board in an exploration of the gifts, realities, and possible future of UI, and ultimately asked the Board to identify and articulate what would be involved if UI were to come to completion or transition. Their discernment led them to understand and affirm that UI has indeed fulfilled its founding mission and that now is the right time for the organization to embrace that fulfillment and come to completion.



The Board honors UNANIMA International for its groundbreaking work on behalf of women, girls, and children, in the areas of confronting Human Rights: trafficking, access to water, mining exploitation, and our focus of the past ten years in recognizing the impact and extent of homelessness globally. The Board is proud that UI

demonstrated that when small communities of women with shared missions work together, they can have a global impact.

These realities are UNANIMA International's legacy.

It is the intent of UI to complete its mission as an NGO at the UN before the end of 2025. The Board of Directors hope to recommend several ways our member communities might continue their global efforts after UI has completed its mission.



World Social Summit Doha 2025

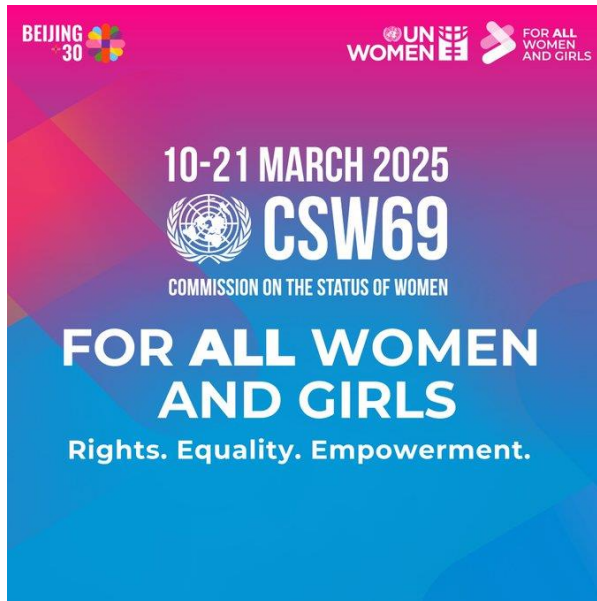
The World Social Summit will be held in Doha, Qatar, from November 4 to 6, 2025. It will be an event where innovation meets tradition, and voices from every part of the globe unite in pursuit of progress. As we gather for the event, we are not simply looking for an exchange of ideas, but to ignite action, foster collaboration, and pave the way for a more inclusive and equitable world.



Our mission is clear: to address the most pressing social challenges of our time with courage, vision and unity. As we in civil society embark on this transformative Journey, let us embrace diverse perspectives, amplify marginalized voices, and turn dialogue into tangible change.

UNANIMA International as part of the Working Group to End Homelessness (WGEH), are calling for the explicit inclusion of homelessness in the Outcome Declaration of the second World Social Summit for Social Development, in order to fully achieve the goals of the [Copenhagen Declaration](#), the [Platform of Action](#), and the [2030 Agenda](#). The Summit continues to be a global platform focused on tackling pressing social and economic issues, with leaders and policymakers gathering to drive impactful change. Key discussions this year center on sustainable development, social equity, digital inclusion and innovative solutions for global cooperation.

Commission on the Status of Women



The 69th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from March 10-21, 2025. CSW is the UN's largest annual gathering on gender equality and women's empowerment, and provides the opportunity for governments, civil society organizations, experts, and activists from across the world to collaborate on solutions to end women's poverty and advance gender equality. Each year UNANIMA International actively engages in the work of the Commission in order to promote women's

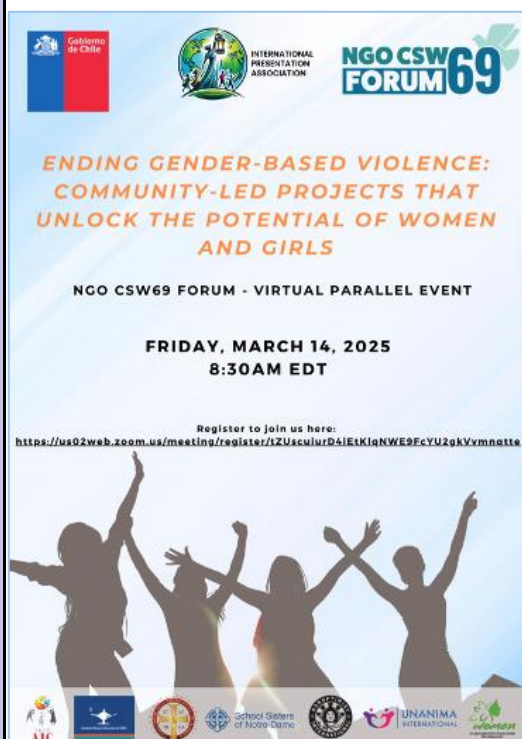
rights, uplift the reality of women's lives throughout the world, and shape global standards on the empowerment of women experiencing poverty.

This CSW was the 30th anniversary of the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#), adopted in 1995. As such, this session was a review and appraisal of the implementation of these commitments. Participants focused on current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women.



“Ending gender-based violence: Community-led projects that unlock the potential of women and girls.”

On Friday, March 14, UNANIMA International also co-sponsored a virtual CSW69 side event titled “Ending gender-based violence: Community-led projects that unlock the potential of women and girls.” The event was organized by the International Presentation Association and was also co-sponsored by the Government of Chile, International Association of Charities, Graduate Women International, Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council of North and South America, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Soroptimist International HQ, and Women in Agriculture for Sustainable Development.



**ENDING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE:
COMMUNITY-LED PROJECTS THAT
UNLOCK THE POTENTIAL OF WOMEN
AND GIRLS**

NGO CSW69 FORUM - VIRTUAL PARALLEL EVENT

**FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2025
8:30AM EDT**

Register to join us here:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/1ZUscujrD5iE1K1qNWE9FcYU2qkYvmnnte>

Logos at the bottom include: AIC, Government of Chile, International Presentation Association, School Sisters of Notre Dame, UNANIMA INTERNATIONAL, and Women in Agriculture for Sustainable Development.



Speakers:

Opening remarks: **Francisca Gallegos Jara**, Undersecretary of Social Services, Ministry of Social Development and Family, Government of Chile

- **Dorothy Fernandes**, PBVM, International Presentation Association, Bihar, India
- **Hawa Dunor-Varney**, Executive Director, Women in Agriculture for Sustainable Development, Liberia
- **Francine Poppo**, BCC, Executive Director SSND Educational Center - **Ling Liu**, Student, SSND Educational Center, United States
- **Sonide Simon-Romain**, Urban Planner, Regenerating Roots, Vincentian Family Haiti Initiative Board Member
- **Niki Devaris-Morgulis**, Coordinating Director, Girl Delegate Program, Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council of North and South America, United States

Moderator:
Dr. Despolina Afroditi Milaki, UN Representative, International Presentation Association

Logos at the bottom include: AIC, Government of Chile, International Presentation Association, School Sisters of Notre Dame, UNANIMA INTERNATIONAL, and Women in Agriculture for Sustainable Development.

“Women of Faith Leading Change: Going Further, Faster, Together for Climate and Gender Justice.”

UNANIMA International also participated in a CSW69 side event organized by the Women, Faith, and Climate Network, co-sponsored by the Permanent Missions of Ireland, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, and the UN Environment Programme. The event was titled “Women of Faith Leading Change: Going Further, Faster, Together for Climate and Gender Justice.” It was co-moderated by Azza Karam, President and CEO of Lead Integrity, and Rachel Tavernor, Global Advocacy and Policy Manager of ACT Alliance, with other speakers including Former President of Ireland, Mary Robinson, and representatives from the Permanent Missions of the United Kingdom and Ireland. Liana participated as a panelist and discussed UI’s approach to climate displacement through the lens of integral ecology and ecofeminism. The recording of the event is available [here](#).

69TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

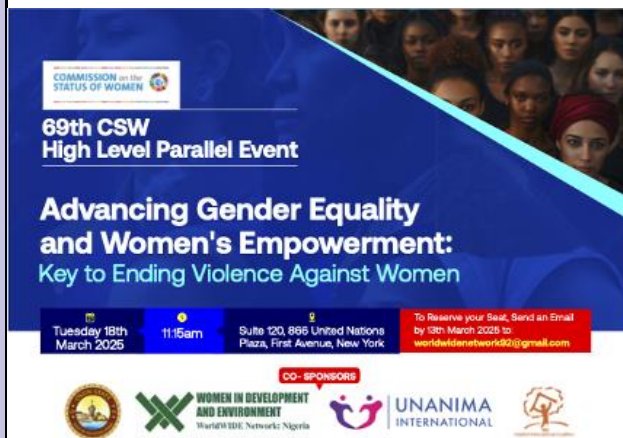


WOMEN OF FAITH LEADING CHANGE:
GOING FURTHER, FASTER, TOGETHER FOR CLIMATE AND GENDER JUSTICE
13 MARCH 2025 13:30 - 14:45 EDT
TZU CHI CENTER, 229 E 60TH ST. NEW YORK

 RSVP FOR IN PERSON OR ONLINE PARTICIPATION: [BIT.LY/WFCNETWORK](https://bit.ly/WFCNETWORK)

   
Bun-ionad na hÉireann
chun na Náisiún Aontaithe
Permanent Mission of Ireland
to the United Nations
Ministry of Women Affairs, Community,
Small and Medium Enterprises
Development
UN
environment
programme

“Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Key to Ending Violence Against Women.”



On Tuesday, March 18, Jean was a keynote speaker for a CSW69 side event titled “Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Key to Ending Violence Against Women.” UNANIMA International co-organized this event with WorldWIDE Network: Nigeria, and Habitat International Coalition. In her remarks, Jean highlighted the intersections between violence against women, gender inequality and homelessness, and the

importance of implementing an intersectional approach to designing effective services and policy solutions



CSW69 Civil Society Briefing



To close out CSW69 on Friday, March 21, Liana spoke at the final CSW69 Civil Society Briefing, which was organized by the NGO Committee on the Status of Women. In her remarks, Liana highlighted the importance of bridging the agendas of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Beijing Declaration to maximize progress in preparation for the Second World Summit for Social Development in November. She emphasized that sustained civil society involvement led by women with lived experience is essential to the implementation of these commitments, and concluded with the clear message that gender equality is not merely an aspect of social development, but the foundation of social development. The recording of the full briefing is available on UN Web TV at the link [here](#).

**A word from the
new Chair of
NGO CSocD, Gillian D'Souza
Nazareth**





UNANIMA International has been a beacon of light spearheading Social Justice at the United Nations headquarters NYC through tireless engagement with the NGO Committee on Social Development. As I begin my term as Chair of the committee, I take the opportunity to recognise and thank UNANIMA International for providing vision, execution on a mission and guiding the NGO Committees advocacy agenda for many years. I acknowledge UNANIMA has consistently contributed to the Committee in multiple ways including impartial leadership, human resources, time, effort and expertise.

It is hard to quantify the long hours of work, the stress, the patience and leadership skills required to chair a volunteer NGO Committee whose reach within the UN system is quite substantive, where we are called upon to engage diplomats, UN colleagues and experts. Under the leadership of Jean Quinn, the Committees light shone especially brightly on excellence in action.

On behalf of the NGO Committee, Dear UNANIMA, please accept our gratitude for generously sharing your abundant gifts with the committee - We thank you.

Gillian D'Souza Nazareth
Chair NGO Committee on Social Development



Sophia
providing homes · supporting people

“Homeless and Housing Charity Sophia Housing has appointed Jean Quinn DW whose radical approach to homelessness proved successful is appointed Patron of the housing charity”

Sophia Housing was founded by Jean Quinn in 1997. It provides Housing with Support across Ireland for people who have experienced homelessness. In April 2025, Jean was officially appointed Patron of Sophia Housing. An article titled, “Homeless and Housing Charity Sophia Housing has appointed Jean Quinn DW whose radical approach to

homelessness proved successful is appointed Patron of the housing charity” was printed in the Irish Independent on April 15.

In this article, Michael McCarthy—Chair of Sophia Housing, says: “Jean’s vision was ahead of its time. Thirty years ago, the dominant response to homelessness was large scale hostels and shelters. The issue of homelessness was being managed but not solved. Jean’s grassroots work informed her of what



people who experienced homelessness wanted most of all; they didn’t just want a bed for the night but instead they needed a home for life.”

"Jean also instinctively knew that people who had experienced the trauma of homelessness also needed a range of support to help them transition from the instability of homelessness to the security of having a home of one’s own.”

The article goes on to state that:

“Jean Quinn’s vision for addressing homelessness enabled Sophia to expand its impact on homelessness to the point where Sophia now provides over 500 homes across the State and supports over 1,500 people at any one time.

Jean’s vision for a holistic response to homelessness has been proven to work as Sophia attains a 90% success rate i.e. over nine out of ten people supported by Sophia never return to homelessness and this is above the international norm. Sophia believes its model is needed and it is very relevant to addressing the homelessness crisis in Ireland.

As patron of Sophia, Jean will continue to nourish and motivate the work of Sophia as well as acting as an ambassador promoting the work of the organization.

Jean is a member of the International Congregation of the Daughters of Wisdom. As well as holding many congregational and professional leadership roles throughout her career she has been actively involved in International Social Justice through a range of facets for many years. Jean has spent a vast number of years working with the homeless in Dublin and is the

Founder of Sophia Housing in Ireland. Her vision and leadership brought strength and growth to Sophia, which is now celebrating its 28th year as an organisation committed to providing a holistic approach in supporting people, specifically women and children on their journey from Homelessness.

Since joining the UNANIMA International Organization as the Executive Director in 2017 Jean's passion for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation have continuously been utilized in her international advocacy."



Grassroots Stories



Sacred History of the Sisters of Providence in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti

To be a compassionate and active presence in a context where the population seems to be left to its own devices, we, Sisters of Providence living in Port-au-Prince, have targeted a specific group that is very vulnerable and neglected by Haitian society. Our area of intervention is a neighborhood in the capital of Port-au-Prince called Bicentenaire. This neighborhood was once a strategic area in terms of commerce. It is also an area where many public institutions such as Customs, the City Hall, the National Bank of the Republic of Haiti, and the Haitian Parliament were housed. However, over the past ten years, this neighborhood has become a lawless zone affected by the proliferation of armed gangs in the outlying suburbs.



As a result, the socio-economic living conditions of local residents, particularly young people and women, are increasingly deteriorating, to the point where many of them live permanently without work, living on the streets without any knowledge of the identity of their parents. This

category: women, young people and children, are often victims of all kinds of social injustice such as rape, beatings, and involuntary consumption of drugs and alcohol. They are also victims of hunger, lack of schooling, lack of medical care, destitution, and trauma from violence. As a result, they become walking social dangers.



Seeing the subhuman living conditions in which these people live, deprived of everything, we chose, at the cost of great danger, to be a compassionate and active presence in this high-risk neighborhood with these poor women, young people and children left to their own

devices. In collaboration with the parish priest of the area, we began social activities. Some children, until now, did not yet have their birth certificates. With the help of a civil registrar, we



were able to find the possibility of giving each of these children a birth certificate in order to prepare them to receive the sacrament of baptism and communion.

We continue to demonstrate our creative and prophetic solidarity by setting up activities that can allow them to feel like

human beings with a little dignity, by giving them opportunities to learn to develop their talents and knowledge through manual activities and also by promoting some learning techniques. Occasionally, we organize meetings with a psychologist for group or individual therapy. A hot meal is served to them every day thanks to the courageous women who work in the kitchen.



With these children, we formed a small choir that leads Mass every last Sunday of the month. They feel valued through all these activities, for which they are proud and grateful.

With our surge of hope, we believe in a new life especially for these children

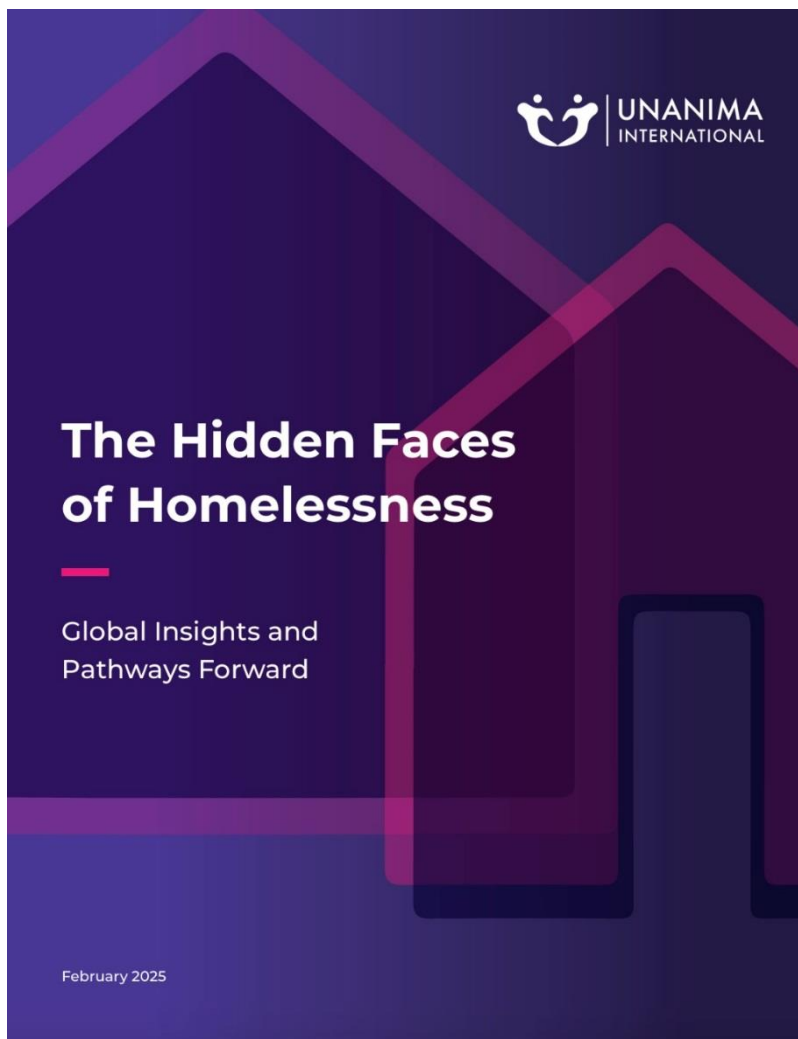
living in these high-risk areas.

Hélène Mamert, sp.

Resources



Check out our newest Publication:



Upcoming Events

June 4 - International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression

June 5 - World Environment Day

June 8 - World Oceans Day

June 12 - World Day Against Child Labor

June 20 - World Refugee Day

July 11 - World Population Day

July 12 - International Day of Hope

July 30 - World Day against Trafficking in Persons

August 9 - International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

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