

It's your World

"The principles of [the charter of the United Nations] are, by far, greater than the Organization in which they are embodied, and the aims which they are to safeguard are holier than the policies of any single nation or people." - Statement by Dag Hammarskjöld in the General Assembly, 31 October 1956

Our Network has been a hive of activity in recent months. We combined the commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations and the adoption of the new Sustainable Development Agenda with four international webinars on the new Sustainable Development Agenda. We are aware that this endeavor involves everybody and, therefore, our initiative was "for the people and by the people". Members of our network agreed to inform themselves and share their knowledge with others from around the world.



Many people collaborated to make both the **Webinars** and the video **What We Think** possible. The UN Province Representatives invited speakers from their national networks with the task of ensuring that communication flowed. Emails bounced back and forth - it was a challenge to ensure communication in different parts of the world. The speakers committed themselves to some background study and a more in-depth study of the final United Nations document. The speakers from Latin America included teachers, students and friends from the Congregation of Jesus Province of Argentina. The webinars were set up from

New York, Madrid and Melbourne and moderated from Lima, Melbourne, New York and Rome. Province Secretariats and Communication Offices distributed information to our world network world. Facebook and Twitter friends helped with the social media by sharing the information with their networks. Others gathered groups, especially of elderly sisters, around a computer or large screen to be part of the experience. It has taken the eager collaboration of many people to make the initiative possible. Thanks to all and thanks to all of you who watched from around the world.

Enjoy the recorded videos:

Transforming our World: The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda held on Saturday 24 October with speakers from Canada, Italy, United States and Zambia. Click [here](#)

Transforming our World: The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda held on Monday 26 October including speakers from Australia, Mauritius and South Africa. Click [here](#)

Spanish Language webinar No1 with speakers from Argentina, Morocco, Peru and Spain. [Here](#)

Spanish language webinar No 2 with speakers from Argentina and Peru. [Click here](#)

The recorded webinars both in Spanish and English are valuable resources for all. They give us the opportunity to listen to people who do not claim to be experts but who took the time to become familiar with the 17 Goals with their targets, the vision of those who worked on the Agenda for the last three years, and the very important aspects such as implementation, review and follow-up. The written texts and short videos of each speaker will be available soon on the www.ibvmunngo.org website and on the [IBVM NGO YouTube](#) channel.

What We Think. This video is the result of short interviews with people from Peru, Zambia, United States, Spain, Mauritius, Australia and Italy. We hear their impressions of aspects of everyday life. Their issues are also those contained in the new Sustainable Development Agenda. These videos captured on cell phones help us realize that the global agenda, negotiated and approved on our behalf at the United Nations, is basically connected to our lives and neighbourhoods.

Welcome to New York!

Mary Burkart ibvm has come from Morocco for an immersion experience at the United Nations. She has already been at several UN and NGO Committee meetings and events and is engaged in some IBVM NGO related tasks. Mary will be with our NGO until the end of January



Climate Summit COP21.

World Leaders meet in Paris from Nov 30th to December 11th for the Climate Summit called COP 21. In the name of our human family, especially those living in poverty and those who will be forced into poverty if we do not act to prevent the consequences of global warming and climate change; we call for a binding legal agreement. We call for an agreement which will save our planet and its inhabitants from encroaching disaster. Thousands marched in cities around the world and millions prayed for the participants taking part in the summit.

International organizations like ours call on the governments and nations of our world to:

- Commit to a legally binding and equitable agreement on climate change.
- Deliver fair, ambitious and strong climate actions at national and international levels, adequate to stop climate change and keep global warming well-below 2 degrees.
- Phase out fossil fuels and ensure that sustainable energy is accessible to all. Current lifestyles need to change.
- Ensure that action on climate change protects human rights as it is among the key factors in eradicating poverty, hunger and malnutrition.
- Back commitments with adequate funding, especially from the most developed countries.



We are lucky to have the moral authority of a person such as Pope Francis addressing this concern with such strength and conviction. Throughout our network, we share information and join in prayer for the success of the Summit. Participants in the Summit and the NGO Forum are on their way to Paris amid the sorrow of the recent deaths caused by extreme and violent behavior. Others participated in the World Climate March taking place in cities all over the world. It was good to hear that Mary Ward International, Australia has endorsed the Oxfam People's Climate March across Australia.

Pope Francis addresses the United Nations

In his recent address to the United Nations on 27 September 2015, Pope Francis reminded those gathered at the General Assembly of the important role the institution plays in our world. He stressed the founding principles and international endeavors which make it a necessary institution for today's world. Yet it is an institution which needs constant updating. He spoke of the need for equity within the organization, especially in the Security Council, and financial institutions. He noted the misuse of power among member states and the effects of unethical behavior on people and the environment. He referred to the possibilities of the organization if all worked, sincerely, for the common good. These were encouraging words for the whole human family. Read the full address [here](#).

Voices from our Network

"I remember the founding of the United Nations". Mary Simpkin ibvm USA was a teenager when the United Nations was founded. A keen historian, she was and is still enthusiastic about the idea and the possibilities of the UN. Do watch her as she talks about the [United Nations 70 years later](#).

Errata UPDATE 15. The contribution from the Ethiopian woman in the section "From our Network" should read: "She feels that (because of) the system of land use they have reduced endless legal battles over land ownership".

Perhaps our Loreto letter writers could take up the challenge? Our Loreto Network members were recently encouraged to write to their local members of parliament during the annual Mary Ward Justice Lecture held in Sydney, Australia. *Homeless not Hopeless – Young People and Social Disadvantage*, a topic of concern to all who care about youth living in poverty. Libby Rogerson notes that "what stood out were the speakers' passion and compassion for the young people they work with and their great distress at the enormous challenges facing disadvantaged young people with difficult families, truncated education and a diminishing number of jobs." Awareness that leads to action brings about social change. Those present will hopefully contribute to the welfare of some deprived young people by indicating to local members of Parliament their opposition to "the proposed bill which will deprive unemployed young people of financial support for four weeks".

Formal and Informal Education Centers

Young women from Loreto College Kolkata, India have been learning about the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and they delivered excellent presentations in response. They know that these goals will affect their future and their participation will help to create positive outcomes. Young people have a critical role to play in the implementation of the SDGs. If countries are to succeed in achieving the SDGs and leave no one behind, young people must be present and governments must seek out an active and substantive engagement with young women and men from diverse backgrounds in national –level implementation and monitoring. The overall success of the SDGs depends on the engagement of youth who bring innovative communication skills along with critical thinking and leadership.

Watch their video on [Hunger](#)



Australia. Girls from Loreto Normanhurst and Loreto Toorak, Australia took an active part in preparation for the sustainable Development Goals. Two videos were prepared as part of the footage for the “What We Think” initiative. At Loreto Normanhurst, social justice captain, Jessica, interviewed a number of people including students, teachers and family. At Loreto Toorak, Year 12 councillors, led by environmental councillors Nicola and Esther, asked a range of girls in the secondary school for their reaction to the SDGs.

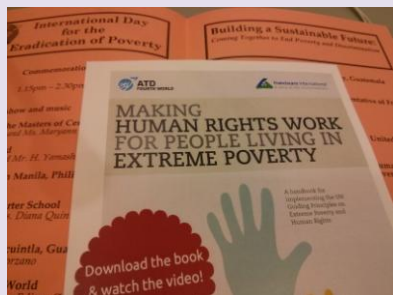
India. An interview on Human Rights involving students, teachers, and passersby was produced by students from Loreto Bow Bazaar, Kolkata, India. “We have so many legal rights given us by our constitution”, they tell us “but, are these rights being used correctly or are they being misused?”

India. Human Trafficking, a form of modern day slavery, is one of the concerns addressed by IBVM around the world. Awareness- raising among the general population is the first step towards solving this serious problem. Teachers and students at Loreto Darjeeling are working hard within the school and with other schools and organizations in the town itself. We thank them for the video they prepared at an awareness raising session. In it they capture the story of what happens. Click [here](#)

Working towards the Implementation of the SDGs

On 27 September 2015, the Heads of State and Governments formally adopted the 2030 sustainable Development Agenda, called SDGs and Global Goals. **“On behalf of the people we serve”, they declared, “we have adopted a historic decision on a comprehensive, far-reaching and people centered set of universal and transformative goals and targets. We commit ourselves to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030. We recognize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. We are committed to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner”.**

Political leaders made this commitment on our behalf and we believe they did it in good will. We are also aware that this cannot be done by governments alone and we are all part of it. Our commitment to achieving these goals and to monitoring them is as important as theirs. The 2030 Agenda comes into action on 1 January 2016. One month later the United Nations will consider the people centered dimension of this agenda during the **Commission on Social Development** (3 – 14 February 2016). **The NGO Forum**, which precedes the Commission and will be held on 1 – 2 February 2016, will address **INEQUALITY**. The NGO committee invites members of our networks to consider a [draft document](#) on this serious issue which affects every country. We encourage you to meet in groups – either physical or online - to discuss it and send your reflections and comments to me at ibvmunngo@gmail.com. Your input will be helpful not only for the NGO committee but also for the input I can give, on your behalf, as an NGO working with The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Your Province UN Rep will be happy to help you with this.



Learn+assess+pray+act+advocate

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