

It's your World

Update from the United Nations
No. 34. 11/2018

IBVM/CJ Partnership at the United Nations.

IBVMs and CJs have been working in partnership for a year. Cynthia CJ took up her role as CJ Representative to the United Nations on 21 October 2017. Communication with our network throughout the world is done mainly through Province UN Representatives. Our first joint CJ/IBVM online meeting of Province UN Representatives was held in October. At this meeting the hope we expressed was to engage with the United Nations, with our wider network and to work as ONE Mary Ward family to address the big issues of the world. As a group we have the possibility of a greater impact for good if we are effective in our networking.

Fourth Woman President of the General Assembly of the United Nations

Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces, poet and politician from Ecuador, is the 73rd President of UN General Assembly and the fourth woman to preside over the General Assembly since the first session was held in 1946. As you can see from the photo she is also the first woman from the Latin American and Caribbean region to preside over the Assembly.



The IBVM NGO has been at the United Nations for 15 years. The Advisory Committee availed of this time to do a survey with the IBVM Sisters on the impact of NGO at United Nations on their Ministry over the last 15 years. The learnings and challenges will help as both CJ and IBVM advance on a common ministry at the UN.

Thanks for your greatly appreciated responses!

The Heads of State and Government gathered to address the General Assembly in late September. When they left, their diplomats, in New York, continued the work through [Six Main Committees](#). Some of the concerns addressed include the following:

*Special Rapporteurs noted that global pledges to improve children's well-being remain 'A Distant Dream' without renewed respect for their rights, notably protection.

*The High Commissioner for Refugees appealed for a return to dignity where refugees and migrants are no longer branded as 'threats' and dehumanized in campaigns seeking political gain.

*Experts pressed governments to honor Human Rights Treaties because there is evidence that extremism and intolerance are overshadowing moves towards Democracy.

Click on link for further information on the issues discussed at the [Third Committee](#)

On United Nations Day 2018 we remembered the promise, made by those who went before us, to reaffirm the worth of the human person.” We will practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours”. These words from the Preamble are a significant call for us as we celebrate the efforts made by the United Nations and remember the [70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#).

Our Youth Representatives

We are happy to have two magnificent Youth Representatives interning with us at the moment. Greta Hunt, from Melbourne, who went to school at Loreto Toorak, Melbourne and studied International Relations and Human Rights at Monash University, has participated in several Loreto justice oriented initiatives in Australia and in Vietnam. Since Greta arrived she has, among other things, followed the [Third Committee](#) for the reports on Human Rights by the High Commissioner and Special Rapporteurs. Towards the end of October, we welcomed Genevieve Pinnington from Toronto. Genevieve is a past student of Loretto Abbey, Toronto and studied Life Sciences at the University of Toronto. Genevieve also has experience of Loretto India. She took part in the Ontario Model World Health Organization and the United Nations New York immersion organized by Mary Ward Centre, Toronto. She is, at the moment, immersed in knowledge sharing on UN issues.



Genevieve



Greta

Human Trafficking at the United Nations



Human Trafficking was initially addressed under the Drugs and Crime section in Vienna. However, in recent years, as other aspects of this crime became more apparent it has been taken up in New York - in the Security Council, the General Assembly, ECOSOC Commissions and, from the human rights perspective, in Geneva. It is a cross-cutting issue which is now addressed in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the Global Compacts on Migrants and Refugees and other processes. The original UN Document, the Palermo Protocol, is one of three protocols within the larger [United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime](#). The Protocol is reviewed every two years in Vienna. This year Sr. Winifred Doherty, Good Shepherd congregation, presented a statement on behalf of a number of NGOs in New York. One of the burning questions has been how to achieve accountability on the part of member states. Some small steps have been taken, but it is an uphill struggle. Read the [Statement here](#).

Learn more about the [General Assembly](#) here. What is the General Assembly? Where does it meet? What is the General Debate? What are the six Committees of the General Assembly? The Budget for the UNGA (United Nations General Assembly)

Learn more about the [Sustainable Development Goals](#). The Sustainable Development Goals address the global challenges we face. The Goals interconnect and, in order to leave no one behind, it is important that we achieve each Goal and target by 2030. Click on any specific Goal below to learn more about each issue.

Outreach from NGO Office

Sr. Cynthia CJ was among the members of Faith-Based International Organizations (8 NGOs) having NGO Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at the United Nations, New York who arranged an Asian-level Conference on “Migrant Workers: an Asia-Pacific Experience” in Delhi, India from 9th to 11th Oct 2018. It was organized in collaboration with the Regional, National and Local organizations working at the grassroots level in Asia. Read more about the Conference [here](#).

IBVM/CJ Meeting. A half day meeting with the IBVM/CJ participants (11) of the conference was held in the CJ Delhi provincial house. The main purpose was to become more acquainted with our mission at UN and the need to network among ourselves and others at the thematic or regional level. All discussed the work they are involved in and expressed the need to work in collaboration with both congregations.

“I also had the opportunity to share about our mission at UN with **our sisters in Bangalore region, Patna province and the teachers and students of our schools.** The topics discussed were: our mission at UN, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Education for Global Citizenship. It was well appreciated, and they showed enthusiasm and eagerness to network with our UNNGO office at New York.” “The homework for me”, says Cynthia, “is to keep at it and do the follow up”.



7th Parliament of World Religions

We participated in the Parliament of World Religions held in Toronto from 1 – 7 November 2018. The Mary Ward Family was happy to have contributed two workshops. We joined a group of NGOs from different faith backgrounds and invited participants to investigate how we can use the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to translate love into inclusive action. Mary Ward Centre, Toronto, presented on Animating Inter-faith Golden Rule Workshops. The workshops strengthen the cohesion between the spiritual and action-oriented dimensions of the work of the United Nations. The Golden Rule being the basic religious value of all religions and of the work of the United Nations, including the Sustainable Development Agenda.



Thanks to the schools for sharing ways in which they educate and work towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Your contributions will feature in the upcoming edition of

“Towards Global Citizenship”

FROM OUR WORLDWIDE NETWORK

Our Network on Human Trafficking

Our joint **Network to Stop Human Trafficking**, which meets online four times annually, invites the Mary Ward Family in every country to a common action: “**Celebrate St Bakhita Day 2019 as a Day of Prayer and Action to Stop Human Trafficking**”. Members of the network will ensure that information on activities, on prayer and action are distributed. You are encouraged to be as creative as possible and reach out to others to let this day be a moment of awareness raising and action on behalf of people, especially girls and women, who are trafficked and all who are in vulnerable situations.

What does it mean to be an inclusive society?



This is the question Teresia Wamuyu Wachira ibvm, Kenya asked herself in her reflection on SDG16. Her reflection, “[Demystifying the ‘other’ and embracing differences to promote peaceful and inclusive societies \(SDG 16\),](#)” is essential reading for us if we are to live in peaceful, just societies. Wamuyu played a significant role in the three-day event for the celebration of the International Day of Peace 21st. September held in Nairobi, Kenya. Read her very interesting reflection on the role of the mind in both war and peace, where we are and how we must move forward.

Multi-Faith Advocacy on behalf of Asylum Seekers

Libby Rogerson ibvm, JPIC Coordinator for [Loreto Australia & South East Asia](#) and current chair of [Catholic Religious Australia](#)'s Social Justice committee joined a multi-faith delegation to the Minister and Shadow Minister of Immigration. “Conscious of the desperation of the people on Nauru and Manus Island, hearing the calls from the [Australian Medical Association](#), the NGOs and judicial organisations and knowing the work done by faith-based groups we realised just how important it was to offer the Ministers our insights into finding a solution”, writes Libby.



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