

# It's your World

Update from the United Nations  
No. 35. 1/2019

*Happy 2019 from the NGO Office, New York.* We pray for blessings on your life and work and on ours during this year. Enjoy Update from the United Nations No 35 and explore the content in the links which aims at deepening and expanding our knowledge of the many dimensions of our work with the United Nations.

Why not begin the year by refreshing your knowledge of the United Nations with the video, [A Guide to the United Nations](#), prepared by Genevieve and Greta, our Youth Representatives? Referring to two books highlighting different aspects of the work of the United Nations, and their own experience over recent months, they have prepared a delightfully informative video.

[Remember 2018](#). It is also helpful to remember some of the main events of 2018. You will find a video with photos taken during the year. The video helps us remember the different UN Commissions, Forums and our participation in them. The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and our webinar [Know Your Rights](#) highlight some of the important processes and ongoing issues. You may have noticed during the year the individual human rights posted on the NGO Facebook page.



## News from the UN NGO Office

**16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence.** From 25<sup>th</sup> November to 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018 women and men all over the world made another joint effort to raise awareness and end violence against women and girls - half the human population.



### The Global Compact for safe and orderly Migration.

This Compact was adopted in Marrakech, Morocco on 10 December. Back in New York, the General Assembly of the United Nations officially endorsed the Compact on 19 December 2018 with 152 votes in favor, 12 abstentions, and five votes against, namely by the Czech Republic, Hungary, Israel, Poland, and the United States of America. An additional 24 Member States were not present to take part in the vote.

### The Global Compact on Refugees

was adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December by a vote of 181 in favor to two against (United States and Hungary), with three abstentions (Eritrea, Libya, Dominican Republic). Seven countries did not vote: North Korea, Israel, Micronesia, Nauru, Poland, Tonga and Turkmenistan.

Several undecided countries finally made the plunge and voted yes. Now we have the Guidelines but the important

step is to implement the decisions.

**Climate Change.** Efforts to advance the understanding of climate change and keep our planet habitable continued in Katowice, Poland, (COP24). According to the Secretary General, many tiny steps were taken but the process is fraught with difficulties. Some helpful and basic information on the issue is available in [9 questions about climate change you were too embarrassed to ask.](#)

**The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is 70 years old.** When this famous Declaration was originally adopted, another less known Convention was also approved - The **Convention on the Prevention of Genocide** which was aimed at preventing mass atrocities. Unfortunately, 44 countries have yet to sign this Convention.

**8<sup>th</sup> UNAOC Global Forum.** The 8<sup>th</sup>. Global Forum of the **United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)** was held in New York on 19 – 20 November 2018. Genevieve discusses the Forum on this [Youtube video.](#)

**UNGA Third Committee.** Greta has been following the Third Committee of the General Assembly. This Committee deals with social, humanitarian and cultural issues. Watch her [video](#) on the Work of the Third Committee.

## **IBVM/CJ Network – Mary Ward Family and United Nations.**

**Province UN Representatives.** At the meeting of Province UN Representatives held on 1 October 2018, which was also the first joint CJ/IBVM meeting, there was discussion regarding the ways our ministries and issues of concern contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The Agenda includes the integration of Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation with the framework provided by the SDGs. Many provinces have reflected on Pope Francis' Encyclical "Laudato SI" which is considered an ethical and moral companion for the UN initiative. **One way of expressing the interconnected and integrated dimension of our contribution is as follows:**

**We provide access to quality formal and non-formal Education to:**

- **Ensure dignity and equality for all People** through the **empowerment** of people, gender equality, human trafficking, child protection, immigration, refugees, asylum seekers, indigenous people, elderly people, children and families, Prison ministry
- **Protect our planet for future generations** through our work on climate change/environment/ ecology, solar energy, waste management, tree planting
- **Promote prosperous and fulfilling lives** by addressing inequality, poverty, just wages, taxes including our responsibility as citizens to pay our taxes, social protection and cash transfers.
- **Promote peaceful, just and inclusive societies** through informal work on Governance. Corruption and Cooperatives.

## **Network to Stop Human Trafficking**

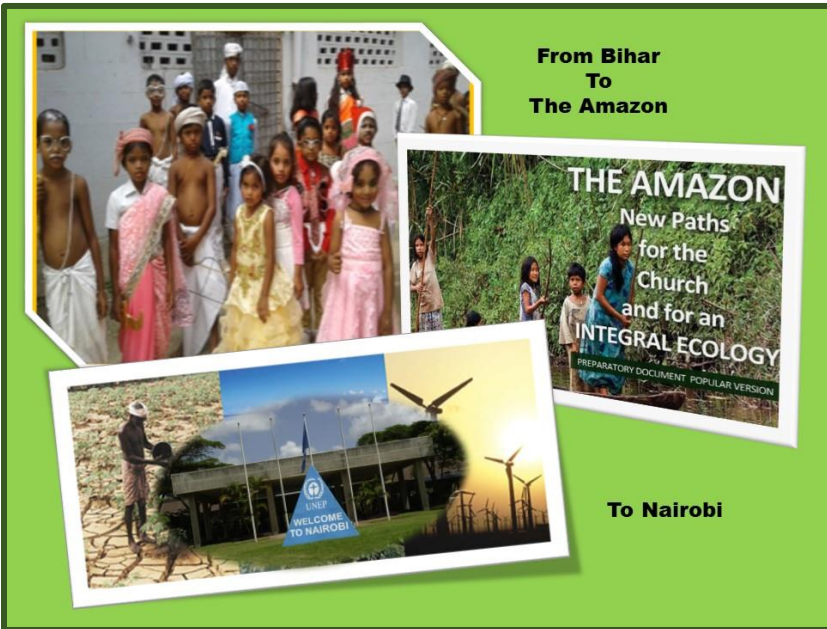
(ibvm and CJ)

The Network to Stop Human Trafficking encourages the whole Mary Ward Family to a Global Experience of Prayer and Action. Members of the network are working to ensure that Human Trafficking is specifically addressed in our prayer and action on 8 February 2019, the feast of **St. Bakhita**, or as near to that day as possible. Contact the person from your province on the network or the Province UN Representative for further information.



## From Bihar (India) to Amazonas (Latin America) and to Nairobi (Kenya).

In her Christmas Greetings, Sr. Lissy CJ and the Gulni Community from Bihar, India reminded us of the “sublime relationship of the Creator with the creation where the Creator becomes one with the creation to restore perfection”. We recognize it in the humble birth on a risky street, in the migrant family in Egypt, an ordinary family in a life of uncertainty.



From Bihar  
To  
The Amazon

To Nairobi

On the other side of the world, our UN Representatives from Latin America tell of their preparations for

“[Amazonia: New Paths for the Church and for an Integral Ecology](#),” the Synod which will take place in October 2019 on the Pan-Amazonian region of South America, which includes parts of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guyana, Guyana, Peru, Venezuela and Suriname. It addresses the paradigm which views Amazonia as an inexhaustible source of supplies for other countries without thinking of for its inhabitants who, in the words of Pope Francis “are usually forgotten and left without prospect of a peaceful future because of the crisis of the Amazon forest which plays a vital role in the environmental

health of the entire planet”. Read the popular version of the preparatory document [here](#).

And, on to Nairobi, Kenya, home of UN Environment where the Secretary General of the United Nations has initiated a process which will hopefully lead to a Global Compact for the Environment. The process began by identifying the gaps in international environmental law and environment-related instruments presented in the Secretary General’s [Gap Report](#). Attendance at the sessions, which are held in Nairobi, are open to NGOs with ECOSOC status. As a number of members of the Mary Ward family have expressed their concern regarding the environment, this could be a good moment to take up the issue again and meet online for observations, concerns and solutions. **If you are interested, please contact the NGO Office.**

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

“2018 has been the year of ‘desks’ in the community schools in which Loreto is involved in the Lukulu and Mitete Districts of Zambia”, writes Elizabeth Donnan ibvm. “The constant cry from the schools is desks. Double timber desks were made in Lukulu from local timber for thirteen schools. As with most Loreto projects in Lukulu there is a requirement for a contribution from the community. In this case it is the transport of desks from Lukulu by ox cart and/or canoe for distances up to 100 km.

Given that in many cases there is no mobile network or the teachers do not have phones, the logistics



8 double desks leave Lukulu harbour

of organizing the transport is a challenge". Read more about this beautiful example of inclusion and tireless effort to [LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND](#)

## United Nations and IBVM/CJ Network collaboration during the coming months.



The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda is becoming the central framework for the UN system. Implementation and adequate financing of the 17 SDGs will contribute significantly to social, economic and environmental sustainability. Therefore, the main Commissions are viewed through the lens of certain SDGs. The Commission on Social Development (11 – 21 February 2019), for example, will address inequalities and challenges to social inclusion (SDG10) through fiscal, wage and social protection policies (SDGs 1,3,8 and others). Similarly, the Commission on the Status of Women (11 – 22 March 2019) will deal with social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. (SDGs 5,10, 1,3,8). We contribute to these commissions with joint

statements and side events which will be posted on our web at [www.ibvmunngo.org](http://www.ibvmunngo.org)

The 2019 meeting, called High Level Political Forum (9 – 18 July 2019), aimed at empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equity will review the following SDGs.

- [Goal 4](#). Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- [Goal 8](#). Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- [Goal 10](#). Reduce inequality within and among countries
- [Goal 13](#). Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- [Goal 16](#). Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- [Goal 17](#). Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Our Youth Representatives, **Christina (Toronto), Greta and Genevieve (New York)** are working with youth from our network, especially students and IBVM/CJ Sisters in the Youth Category on these goals. They will present their findings to the **2019 ECOSOC Youth Forum** in April 2019.

In collaboration with **the Province UN Representatives** we work to make our voice heard at local, national, regional and global level in the review of these SDGs. During the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2019, in New York, the following countries, where with IBVM/CJ have a presence, will present their **National Voluntary Review (VNR)**: Brazil, Chile, Ghana, Mauritius, Philippines, South Africa, UK and Northern Ireland, Tanzania.

*NGO Office, New York*

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