

Education for Global Citizenship

In 2016 we (IBVM/CJ) had met together for the 66th UN DPI/NGO conference in Gyeongju. After the conference we had pledged our commitment to focusing on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), in areas of our work and mission, supporting the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. We as a group had drawn an action plan to promote SDGs with a special emphasis on education for Global citizenship. The SDGs, (just to remind us), are 17 developmental goals adopted by 2015 UN general assembly, with the view of transforming the world on multiple levels. Our commitment, primarily, was to assess and improve the work we have already been doing in line with the guidelines of the Gyeongju action plan. In this second issue of our groups' newsletter we bring you news about our involvements as an NGO registered with UN, along with the news from the quarters of our work.

Youth Declaration

The future of the world depends on the youth of today and therefore youth participation in all efforts to make world a better place is unavoidable. As educators and social workers, we are aware that all our endeavors aimed at bringing into being a better tomorrow should necessarily focus on young people. Accordingly, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls us to join in with our efforts to help the youth effectuate what they

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have committed themselves to in Youth Declaration, Gyeongju, 2016 -

“We the youth, commit to:

- Wholeheartedly work to implement the SDGs and empower increasing numbers of youth to take real action together.
- Harness our innovation to develop projects aimed at improving quality educational experiences for young people.
- Report regularly on our actions, reflect on the efficacy of programs aimed at youth, and share our honest learning and shortcomings.
- Take up the responsibility to mentor each other through higher educational processes and share learning opportunities.
- Build strong intergenerational partnerships with Civil Society Organisations to work towards achieving the SDGs together, in particular strengthening informal educational initiatives.
- Offer honest, measured and unbiased perspectives to policy and decision making

processes, for the betterment of all, not just for young people.

- Strive to leave this planet better than we found it.”

UNESCO on Global Citizenship

The UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization) was founded to contribute to peace and security in the world by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science culture and education. Its Charter states that, “Since war begins in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed”. Recently UNESCO prepared an Infograph on Global Citizenship Education. It points out that Globalization draws us together while ongoing conflicts and tensions tear us apart. Threats to sustainable development and challenges for health and well-being for all abound. With issues like the threatening human and environmental well-being we need to re-think the role and relevance of education. We need Global Citizenship Education. Global citizenship education goes beyond the standard topics taught traditionally in schools. Global citizenship education is transformative. It encourages learners to critically analyze issues, respect differences and diversity and take action in our lives and communities responsibly.

It asks the following questions: What are the barriers to this kind of education? What needs to change in education? What is UNESCO doing? What can you do?

Click [here](#) to read and download the complete Infograph.

Global Citizenship Education - Mary Ward Center

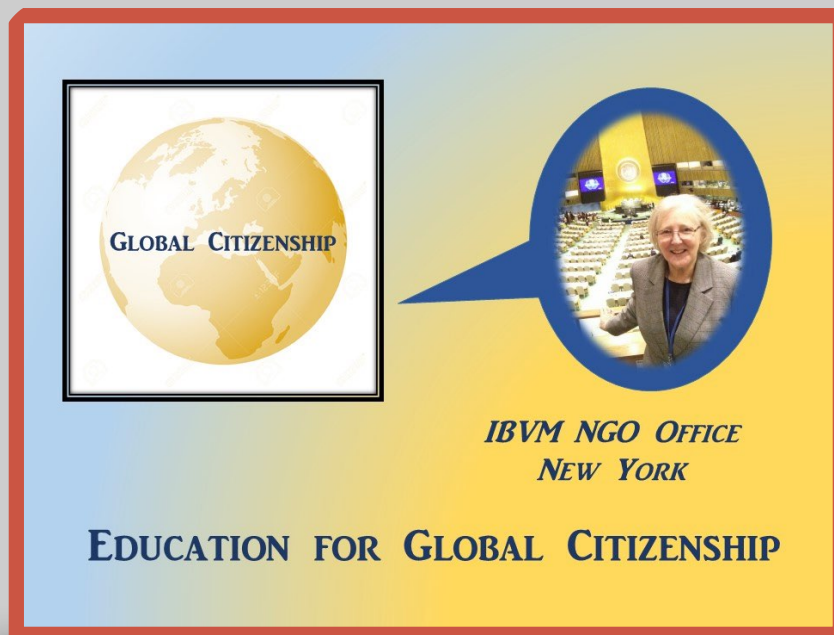


The Mary Ward Center, Toronto uses non formal education to educate students from all over the city in Global Citizenship. It addresses ways in which non-formal education contributes to Global Citizenship Education, focusing on a specific Program called *Metanoia*. *Metanoia @The Mary Ward Centre* introduces students to the realities of some of our world’s injustices, with the hope that students may not only change their own hearts and perspectives about injustices, but that they may move to action to help transform our world. This innovative program enables participants to recognize and thus move into action. Learn about the programs run at Mary Ward Center, Toronto at <http://www.marywardcentre.ca>

We invite you to look up the UNESCO Forums on Global Citizenship Education.

IBVM NGO Office with United Nations

The IBVM NGO office in New York is undertaking a survey and information gathering process on Global Citizenship and Education for Global Citizenship in Loreto schools around the world. A set of questions on our understanding and experience of Global Citizenship in aspects of our present education practice are considered. A second part of the process focuses on the whole education project including vision, school administration, curricula, extracurricular activities and partnerships as they are reflected in our perception of Global Citizenship at the moment. It is hoped that the information gathered will allow for further engagement with the concept.



News from the participants at Gyeongju 2016

Global Citizenship and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda go hand in hand. Because of its universal and integrated nature, the 2030 Agenda provides us with a platform for global action and community. The 17 SDG Goals, often called Global Goals, with the mandate to “leave no one behind” are a roadmap to create a better future for people and planet, for prosperity, in peace and through partnerships. Each person and community brings to the endeavor their own cultural and religious tradition and by working together with the diversity involved we live out a vision, the values and characteristics of global citizenship and persons who we may consider global citizens. It is important therefore that we educate ourselves and our networks in this respect. The participants at the DPI/NGO Conference have taken up the challenge.

Awareness raising:

In schools and colleges. Information sharing and education sessions on the Conference, Global Citizenship and the 2030 Sustainable Development have been held in our schools in India and Mauritius. When our group met online recently we shared about the excitement and energy generated in these sessions.



In Non-Formal Education. Our network reaches out to other groups in the country, writes Martine Cotte from Mauritius. On 26 November 2016, she held a sensitization program on the SDGs with young adults of the LEO Clubs of Mauritius.



On 19 August 2016 Darjeeling Mary Ward Social Center organized a program in collaboration with Br. Simon, who was also a part of the UN conference in South Korea. This program was organized for all the NGOs of two districts (Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri).



Our aim was to work towards “achieving sustainable goals together” by sharing the experience and implementing the goals in our districts by partnering with the local NGOs and some government officials. Watch the video on “working in partnership for the SDGs” [here](#).

With our religious communities. All the participants at the DPI Conference gave information sessions to their Communities. These included special sessions for our Sisters in Temporary Profession and for elderly sisters in our retirement communities.



Actions taken

The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda exhorts us to “Leave no one behind”. Sometimes we create situations in which those likely to be left behind can stand up for themselves. Students march to demand access to quality education. Parents are encouraged to participate in the education of the children. Sr Cynthia writes: “We are doing a lot of awareness on SDGs and now we are tying up with our State Government to educate the youth and make them skilled. Lakhs of youth are unemployed. We are trying to include all our poor and unemployed youth. The Center where I am is approved by the State Government as a Skill Development Center. We hope to educate many youth in Electrical, Computer, soft skill and spoken English now and later in various other skills”.



“Indigenous People are one of the most marginalized groups in the world and the most likely to be left behind. On 9 August 2016, Darjeeling Mary Ward Social Centre representatives were part of the celebration for the International Day for Indigenous People. Sr. Leena Lakra was given an opportunity to speak to the **10 thousand** indigenous people. She encouraged the youth to take the rightful place in Society. With their God-given talents put to the right use they could shine and develop their Society. She spoke to them about her presence at the 66th United Nations DPI/NGO Conference and stressed on Education for Global Citizenship. Education is a Human Right and essential to well-being and dignity. Education is the path to solving many problems. Let us work together towards uplifting our Indigenous community.” - From Report on the Event



The Gyeongju Declaration and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda both stress the importance of universal inclusion, especially of those in positions of specific vulnerability and marginalization. Local is universal and universal is local. In many parts of the world girls are among the most vulnerable. When we act locally to protect one girl we are contributing to the cause of girls all over the world. This is the case of 16 year old Priya Kumari whose experience of is all too common. Sr. Cynthia tells her story and the hard work to bring her justice.

Priya Kumari (name changed), a 16 year old, who has a partial mental handicap, was raped by one of her relatives. The parents of Priya, who are very poor, have six children and Priya is the eldest among the girls. Priya was usually left alone at home as her siblings go to school and parents go to work on daily wage basis, and one such day when was alone at home she got raped. On finding out that Priya was pregnant her parents were devastated and they filed a case in the women's police station. Against other people's advise they chose not to abort the fetus. Priya's mother, an uneducated woman says, "what mistake has the unborn done that it has to die in the womb? I do not want to bring curse on me killing it." One day as i was going home after work from the court with one of my lawyer friends I met Priya and her mother with a little baby at the entrance of the court gate. She and some more other lawyers asked me if i could take the up the case of Priya, since they knew i am from CHIRAG. I took up the case and applied for the victim compensation under Bihar Victim Compensation Act 2014. The process is on and I hope to get some monetary relief for the victim. Priya's baby was treated in Mary Ward Hospital, Dumraon and was picking up health. Then the district judge had ordered the civil surgeon to give free treatment to the mother and the child and so they get their medication in a government hospital. Priya is shown to a psychiatrist who will treat her for her mental sickness.

The man who raped Priya is in jail. The trial is going on in the lower court and his application for bail in the Lower Court was rejected. He has applied for bail now in the High Court and I have put an objection in the High Court. The case is filed under The Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses Act (POSCO Act) 2012. The offense is non bailable. I hope Priya gets justice. There are many children who are victims of sexual violence, sadly by the ones whom they trust and who are supposed to be protecting them. I feel happy that I could do an act of mercy for a helpless girl and her family, during the Year of Mercy.

Adv. Annamma Mathew (Sr. Cynthia CJ)

Another group that faces discrimination is that of people with disabilities. [Watch this video](#) of young people with disabilities who express their opinions on the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Gyeongju Declaration highlights the essential characteristics of global citizens. We have been reflecting on what it means for us.

In addition to literacy and numeracy, education must advance the cause of global citizenship through integrated development of the whole person emotionally, ethically, and spiritually”. For Sr .Cecilia Choi from Korea, Spiritual Direction and walking with adults and youth on their spiritual journey is her way of way of contributing.



Loreto schools in India recently made specific commitments to promote “a sense of care for the earth, reverence for the interdependent kinship of all life, and stewardship of all ecological systems for future generations”

IIHM PRESENTS "THE TELEGRAPH SCHOOL EXCELLENCE AWARDS" has awarded LORETO HOUSE ...
 THE BEST SCHOOL IN INITIATIVES IN MAINTAINANCE AND ECO-FRIENDLY.
 We were also awarded...
 EXCELLENCY IN MERITS AS THE BEST SCHOOL IN :
 ACADEMICS ,EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND
 SOCIAL SERVICE.

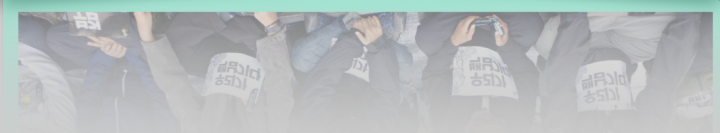
We nurture “a sense of solidarity and empathy in order to protect the planet, ensure human rights, and foster prosperous and fulfilling lives for all. Our sisters in Korea made this present by recording industrial waste, nuclear power plants and those killed in the recent ferry tragedy in their Christmas crib.



We address global challenges at local level by promoting gender equality. By working to eliminate violence against women through awareness raising and providing skills we also help prevent violence, facilitate the eradication of poverty and hunger.



“Education for global citizenship is an essential strategy to eliminate corruption, and prevent violence” Corruption is rampant in almost every country. Our Sisters in Korea joined in the struggle to address it in their country. By peaceful protest to eliminate corruption we work for the advancement of a culture of peace through non-violence.





Working towards Global Citizenship involves empowering learners, and in this case specifically youth, “to assume active roles to face and resolve global challenges and to become proactive contributors to a more peaceful, tolerant, inclusive, and secure world”. Sr.Leena Lakra writes; “After attending the 66th UNDPI NGO Conference in South Korea Darjeeling Mary Ward Social Center (DMWSC) has been constantly trying to make the people aware of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals”. You can watch [this video](#) where young people voice their opinions on the universal goals that make us all part of the global community.

