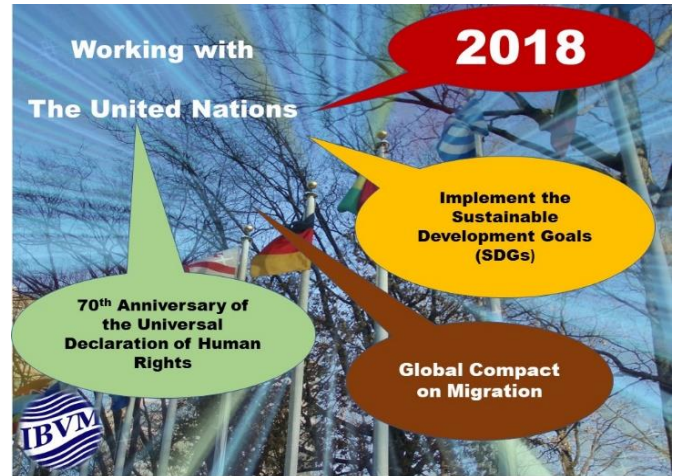


## Working with the United Nations.

2018 provides another opportunity to consider how our local concerns are dealt with at the United Nations and how we contribute. The 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is commemorated this year. By September 2018 it is hoped to have a Global Compact on Migration which will address the global and local dimensions of present day migration. The implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda will continue and hopefully advance decisively towards its completion.



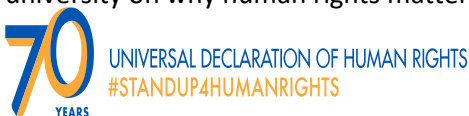
## The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) turns 70 in 2018!

A milestone document in the global history of human rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is infused with values and ideals drawn from the world over. Drafted by UN representatives from diverse cultural and technical backgrounds, the Declaration was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948 as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations.

Despite almost 70 years of existence many people are not aware of their human rights, nor do they understand what the declaration means for everyday lives. UN Human Rights launched a year-long campaign on 10 December 2017. All are asked to engage with this effort to know our rights, to promote understanding of the Universal Declaration and to encourage further reflection on the ways that each of us can stand up for rights.

**Standup4Humanrights** reminds us that **We can all be Human Rights Champions!!!!!!** We can start with these four simple things:

- Read the Universal Declaration
- Take the Human Rights Pledge
- Promote the Declaration by sharing our posts with your friends.
- Add your Voice! Record yourself reading an article from the Declaration in your native language.
- Have a discussion at home, in community, at work or university on why human rights matter.



**In Case You missed...** You can watch the short video ["Faces and Smiles"](#) which highlights some moments at the NGO Office during 2017. Another video, ["Photos Tell Stories"](#) captures a variety of the ways members of our network are contributing to the work of the United Nations. Using the framework of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda we contribute reflections on the values and connections underpinning our life and work. We organize specific events and activities which open our horizons to many of global realities addressed in the 2030 Agenda.

**Invitation:  
To the IBVM and CJ  
Network worldwide.**



**The Webinar will  
respond to your  
questions about the  
United Nations and  
our work as NGO**

**Send your questions  
by  
Friday 9 February 2018**

**Saturday  
17<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018**

Links will come later

**You will find all the information  
at**

<http://ibvmunngo.org/?p=1666>



## Repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda.

Cutbacks on financial commitments to the UN are among the factors driving the change needed to reorganize the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Climate Agreement to help accelerate implementation. The changing leadership at the UN in the last couple of years - new Secretary General, new Deputy Secretary General, heads of several UN Agencies and programmes - provide the Secretary-General with a great opportunity to change the direction of the organization and to retool it for the twenty-first century. According to a recent report, Mr. Guterres identified three strategic priorities. These are: enhancing the UN's contribution to sustainable development; reforming the peace and security architecture of the Secretariat to strengthen the UN's action before and after a crisis and improving internal UN management. Change will involve system-wide strategic planning, revitalizing the regional approach focusing on prevention and improving transparency and accountability.

**“Our promise for dignity, prosperity and peace on a healthy planet”**

## Reviewing the Implementation of Commitments

The third year of the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, a universal framework for development relating to most aspects of society and our planet, is beginning. Initiated in July 2016, a special meeting called a **High Level Political Forum (HLPF)**, is held every year to review specific Goals and allow countries to present a Voluntary Report on progress in their country. The selected goals to be reviewed in 2018 are related to water and sanitation (Goal 6), energy (Goal 7), Cities (Goal 11), consumption and production (Goal 12), life on land (Goal 15) and partnerships (Goal 17). While some members of the network are following the National Voluntary Reports, others are preparing reflections and suggestions during the coming months. For more information on the HLPF read [here](#).

## Global Compact for Migration

The United Nations is working to forge a Global Compact for Migration. This is an agreement or pact negotiated by the governments represented at the United Nations. The first of its kind, it aims at covering all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner. While efforts to achieve an international agreement have been ongoing for many years, the decision was finally taken in September 2016 to develop a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. The document, The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, gave the go-ahead for this task. Cynthia CJ attended the recent launch of the Secretary General's Report, "Making migration work for all" in New York. This Report calls for constructive international cooperation on migration which ensures that migration works for all.

At the NGO Office we are following the process in collaboration with the NGO Committee on Migration. The document, **Now and How: Ten Acts for Global Compact**, presents a vision for a UN Global Compact on Human Mobility and Migration and a set of TEN ACTS that a wide diversity of non-governmental organizations believe are essential for a meaningful Compact for migrants and refugees.

**2018 – Let's make the dream come true....**

**2 YEARS AGO WE BEGAN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA WITH**

**17 GOALS THAT HAVE THE POTENTIAL**

**TO MAKE US THE FIRST GENERATION TO PUT AN END TO EXTREME POVERTY, THE MOST DETERMINED GENERATION TO FIGHT INEQUALITY AND THE LAST GENERATION TO BE THREATENED BY THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.**



# FROM OUR NETWORK

## ART Project on the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.



Art unites us in our efforts to understand the integrated and indivisible nature of the Goals (SDGs) putting people at the center in the hope of ensuring that all human beings work to protect our planet, foster peaceful, just and safe societies in a spirit of strong global solidarity. The NGO Office, in collaboration with Arlene Ashack IBVM, from Chicago, invited members from countries with ibvm presence to express in photograph and symbol, some of their efforts to convert the ideals of the Sustainable Development Goals into lived experience. Arlene gathered the input received and expressed it through the medium of ART in a collage form. Thanks to all who participated and to Arlene for her dedication and achievement. Here you have a photo of the final collage. You will receive further information about it and the possibilities for using it as an expression of “Art Unites Us” and as an education tool.

## Leaving no one behind in the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Locally.

### CJ Patna Province, India

Sisters at Chirag, Buxar work to ensure that no one is left behind. They run 30 supplementary Education centers in 15 villages. Girls are trained as General Duty Assistants (GDA). They are taught elementary nursing so that they can take care of the sick and old people. After the training they work as home nurses or in clinics as helpers pursuing further studies while they work. Boys are trained in Electricals. Under the Bihar Skill Development Mission youths are given training in computer skills.



**Chirag, Buxar (Patna Province) India**



**Children, know your human rights**

Sr. Ancy CJ Gulni, Patna.

In true Mary Ward tradition, through formal and non-formal education, we work to create a life of dignity for all human beings. We respond to the 21<sup>st</sup>. Century call to be one with others in our country, in our continent and on our planet in this endeavor. This is the aim of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

**Sr. Joselette CJ Rajapur, Allahabad ensures that the children from the slum are not left behind....**

**Education for all**



## Together Campaign



In recent months, to create awareness and highlight our efforts worldwide, we have used the United Nations TOGETHER campaign which respects the safety and dignity of refugees and migrants. Even if not working directly with the migrant population we can endeavor, as individuals and communities, to change negative narratives on migration and to strengthen the social cohesion between ourselves as host communities and the refugees and migrants in our locality and country.

Recently IBVM celebrated 20 years of presence in **Asilah, Morocco**. **Ms Aurora Moreno**, Province UN Representative interviewed a Moroccan woman whose daughter studies at one of our schools in Madrid. Lubna shares her experience of life in two countries and cultures. The video, which you can watch [here](#) is in Spanish

**Marian Moriarty IBVM** comments on the hugely challenging situation in **South Africa**. “The asylum/refugee situation is not getting better in South Africa”, she writes. “We are finding people from DRC with refugee status in Zimbabwe coming to South Africa thinking they can start the process of applying for status all over again, which is impossible according to International Law. Recently one member of the Ecumenical Forum, in which I am involved, shared an article co-authored by Martin Mande from The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). It is interesting that Professor Kritzinger, the other co-author, acknowledges that he too is from old German stock – from people who migrated here decades ago whereas Martin is not two decades in South Africa yet”. Do read [Theology disrupted by the Challenges of Refugee Children](#).

## SIXTEEN DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> to Dec.10<sup>th</sup>)

St. Mary’s School, Kathmandu, Nepal, in collaboration with ASMAN, organised a three hour programme around the theme “Raise Your Voice”. It focused on youth and around a thousand students from nine different schools were present. The highlights of the programme included motivational talks from social activists and student dance dramas depicting various forms of violence suffered by women. The students, boys and girls, then came together to develop alternative solutions to some of the problems depicted.”



Learn+assess+pray+act+advocate

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