

The SDGs: Living the Vision.

Eradicating poverty and inequality, insuring inclusion and leaving no one behind, will only happen if we work together. The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda offers us a framework for international collaboration. To do so we need to understand this Development Plan for humanity in the context of our values and spiritual tradition. The IBVM Institute Leadership has taken up the invitation to reflect on the relevance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from their perspective. Read the [Leadership Reflection here](#).

General Leadership IBVM



*The Sustainable Development Goals
Challenge us to live the Vision*

What kind of Social Protection System do you have in your country?

One of the deterrents to poverty is a social protection system. The Commission on Social Development and the NGO Forum on Social Development have considered this question recently. National Governments have to apply the basic guarantees, particularly the 4 basic guarantees, which are understood as a social protection floor. National social protection floors should comprise at least the following four social security guarantees, as defined at the national level:

1. access to essential health care, including maternity care;
2. basic income security for children, providing access to nutrition, education, care and any other necessary goods and services;
3. basic income security for persons at an active age who are unable to earn sufficient income, particularly in cases of sickness, unemployment, maternity and disability;
4. basic income security for older persons.

These minimum guarantees should be improved as a country advances economically. If poverty and inequality are to be eradicated, inclusion ensured and no one left behind, it is imperative we work together. Therefore the role of civil society in advocating for universal social protection and a minimum of social protection floors is important if we are to move forward.



The theme of this year's **Civil Society Forum**, held on 30 – 31 January 2017, was **“The Social Protection Floor Initiative (SPFI) – Bridging the Gap to Poverty Eradication.”** The Civil Society Declaration reads: ‘The institution of social protection, including floors, is one of the clearest means of fulfilling the vision of eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development for all. The concept of protecting at risk or vulnerable citizens is rooted in the recognition of the equal moral worth of all members of society – in short, it **puts people at the center and leaves no one behind**. Read the complete [Civil Society Declaration here](#).

“Education for Global Citizenship in Eradicating Poverty: A Crowdsourced Conversation”

During the Commission on Social Development IBVM sponsored and organized a workshop on Education for Global Citizenship in Eradicating APoverty. The aim of our workshop was to explore how global citizenship interfaces with all aspects of SDGs in the process of eliminating poverty. We created a space for reflection on questions based on the Statement submitted to CSocD on behalf of the Coalition for Global Citizenship 2030. The text of the Statement beginning with the words “Some lives Matter Less” is an urgent cry to consider the oneness of humanity, the interconnection with spiritual impoverishment and global connectedness. Global citizenship presupposes fundamental aspects of human interaction such as the recognition of human dignity and the diversity of relationships. It includes relationships with people involving cultural diversity and is a deterrent to violent extremism. A commitment to *Leave No One Behind* involves care for the most marginalized and vulnerable people and must be carried out compassion and empathy. Human Beings are an integral part of our planet for which we must care. **There is no Planet B.**



Holocaust Remembrance



Holocaust Remembrance: Educating Against Extremism, Building a Better Future

“Educating against Extremism, Building a Better Future” was the title of the DPI Briefing for Holocaust Remembrance. We do not often think how the formal education system and non-formal education can be used to instill intolerance, racism and a narrative that can lead the extermination of millions of countrymen and women. We heard how it was possible, in a few years, to manipulate most of the population with specific language, images, media and entertainment. Focusing on a specific group, isolating and demonizing that group, utilizing communications skills were part of the culture created that led to the Holocaust. We also noted that the same tactics continue to be used. The central importance of education in critical thinking, in recognizing misleading information and in educating in tolerance and respect were stressed by the speakers.

The Oceans Conference

Our Oceans, Our Future. Partnering for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14. The Ocean Conference will be held from 5 to 9 June 2017 in New York.

Oceans and seas and their resources support human well-being and livelihoods. Our oceans are inextricably linked to aspects of life such as poverty eradication, food security, employment, tourism and protection from natural disasters. They provide humans with water and oxygen, while also being the primary regulator of global climate and an important sink for greenhouse gases. However, marine- and land-based human activities constitute a huge threat to oceans, seas and marine resources. Marine pollution and litter, 80 percent of which comes from land-based sources, ocean acidification, overfishing, illegal, unreported and

Whether we live near the ocean or inland we can all prepare to take part in “The Clean Seas global campaign on marine litter”

unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices are all destroying ocean health. The Conference will address the major challenges affecting our oceans and develop a Call to Action to reverse the damage done and being done.

Our network will make the most of this opportunity to become more conscious of the role of oceans, seas and marine resources in our lives providing us with necessary elements for life and wellbeing.

For the general public, this can mean taking simple actions in our everyday life that reduce our plastic footprints. For Governments it can mean pledges to outlaw microbeads in cosmetics, ban plastic plates and cutlery or take any other voluntary, regulatory or market based actions.



FROM OUR NETWORK

Towards Global Citizenship



Recently we received the second edition of the Newsletter [Towards Global Citizenship](#). The initiative arose from the group that attended the UN DPI/NGO Conference in Gyeongju, Korea in 2016. Apart from the personal enrichment the Conference and, our meeting provided for each member of the group, we decided to follow up with a Newsletter on Global Citizenship and its connection with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda to keep us focused and informed. Read this edition which recaps the Gyeongju orientations, the Youth Declaration and see what has been happening in our Extended Mary Ward Network and at the United Nations since the Conference. Thanks to Sr. Anu George CJ for preparing the newsletter.

News from Darjeeling, India.

“It is with immense pride”, they write, “that we inform you that two of our girls from Darjeeling, Tejaswita Pradhan from Loreto Convent and Shivani Gond from St Teresa's Darjeeling, have been selected for the prestigious Geeta Chopra National Bravery Award.... These brave girls helped in the busting of a cross border flesh trade ring by acting as trafficking decoys... They exemplify our foundress Mary Ward's maxim, “Be seekers of truth and doers of justice.” They received the award from the Prime Minister on 23rd January 2017 and participated in the Republic Day parade in Delhi on 26th January 2017. Congratulations to Tejaswita, Shivana, their parents, teachers and all who encouraged them!



The Gift Box – Ireland



“The Anti Trafficking Gift Box project hit Irish streets. This walk-in piece of public art is intended to gain people’s attention. Its’ gift box exterior symbolizes the way traffickers entice their victims with false promises”, says Sarah Mac Donald in her comments to an Irish newspaper. The Gift Box initiative was taken up as a response to the IBVM pledge at our general chapter in 2014 to do whatever we could to combat trafficking, which Pope Francis has described as a new form of slavery. The idea to bring the Gift Box around Ireland as a way of raising public awareness of the issue of trafficking was initiated by Liz Byrne IBVM and was taken up by the umbrella group of religious orders campaigning on this issue – Act to Prevent Trafficking (APT). It is present in Irish cities during the month of March. We will remember from other Updates that IBVM Canada and Albania and CJ Slovakia have also

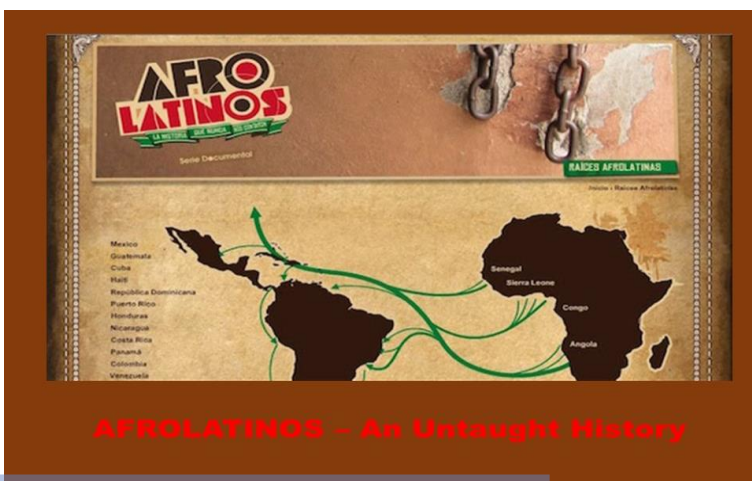
initiated and collaborated in the initiative in their country.

International Women’s Day 2017

On March 8 every year, International Women’s Day is celebrated to acknowledge women and their achievements. Women have come a long way in their struggle for equality, but there is still a distance to cover. This year, the United Nations called upon all actors, that is all of us, to “Step It Up for Gender Equality towards a Planet 50-50 by 2030. Watch this video recorded for the occasion by [Libby Rogerson IBVM](#) from our office in New York and read the excellent information sent by [IBVM Canada on International Women’s Day](#)



The AFROLATINOS



AFROLATINOS - AN UNTAUGHT HISTORY is the story of the estimated 150 million people of African descent living throughout Latin America who have been generally excluded from historical narratives, literature and academia. A documentary, called Afro-Latinos, recently screened at the UN, aims to help empower people of African descent, start a dialogue, create awareness, promote change and help give voice to a large community which has been historically marginalized.

Learn+assess+pray+act+advocate

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