

NGO NEWS

Sisters of Charity Federation

UN Orientation

Four SCN Associates (Evelyn Faldowski, Eugenie Coakley, Martha Borders, and Jo Ann Paulin), two SCNs (Sarah Ferriell and Susann Gobber), and one SCNA Candidate (Brad Hilgert) and one Nazareth employee (Felicia Rowe) participated in a UN Orientation program during the month of October.

Speakers at the Orientation included: Swami Parameshananda, a Hindu monk, spoke on the importance of interreligious dialogue and his work at the UN; Deirdre Mullan, RSM, currently working with UNICEF, spoke on global citizenship; Cecile Meijer, RSCJ, an international human rights lawyer, spoke about the importance of human rights in the development agenda; Stacy Hanrahan, CND, shared her work on disarmament and Caroljean (Cj) Willie, SC, the current NGO rep-



(l-r) Cj, Sarah, Evelyn, Eugenie, Brad, Jo Ann, Felicia, Martha, Susann, and Teresa

representative for the Sisters of Charity Federation, spoke about the movement from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Associate Martha Borders commented: "I found our time in New York City was the most

excellent experience ever for me. I learned about the many different aspects of the UN and its member nations as well as how these member nations have worked and continue to work together towards positive outcomes to make life better and more productive for their people, especially in many developing nations."

Getting to Know the UN: UNCTAD

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is the UN body responsible for dealing with development issues, particularly international trade.

UNCTAD produces analyses that form the basis for recom-

mendations to economic policymakers. Its goal is to help them make informed decisions and promote the macroeconomic policies that will address and lead towards the elimination of global inequalities. One of its primary goal is

to generate people-centered development.

UNCTAD provides a forum where representatives of all countries can engage in dialogue and discuss ways to establish a better balance in the global economy.

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Dates to Remember:

- February 3, 2015 - Civil Society Forum
- February 4-13, 2015 - Commission for Social Development
- March 9-20, 2015 - Commission on the Status of Women

SC Presence at the UN	2
Synthesis Report	2
Thank You	3
Resources	3
Synthesis Report cont'd	3
NGO Information	4
Updates	4

Sister of Charity Presence at the United Nations—from www.famvin.org

Sister Teresa Kotturan, SC Nazareth, will serve as the next NGO continuing the Federation's presence at the UN in its efforts to promote peace, justice and dignity for all throughout the world.

In 1997, the SC Federation hired Sister Marie Elena Dio, SC Halifax, as the first employee of the Federation to serve as an NGO Representative at the United Nations. Under her leadership, the Federation NGO was accredited with consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the UN.

Each congregation of the Federation named a liaison to dialogue with Sister Marie Elena on priority issues. During her eight years at the UN, Sister Marie Elena was a founding member of Religious at the UN (RUN), a group to support efforts in promoting the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. She and Sister Faith Colligan, DC, were among the founding members of the Financing for Development NGO Committee in 2004 which came into existence to monitor the Monterrey Consensus to secure funding, trade agreements, and debt relief to assist developing countries in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals of 2000. Sister Faith also served on the Committee for Social Development and for several years co-chaired

the Civil Society Forum which preceded the Commission for Social Development. Sister Janet McLaughlin, SC St. Elizabeth, served as an assistant for a number of years.

Sister Maria Goetschalckx, SC Seton Hill, served as NGO Representative for two years and brought her expertise to poverty and development issues as well as trafficking and migration. She continued the collaborative work with ECOSOC, other NGO Reps and multiple committees to apply the Vincentian charism and the Federation Strategic Plan to the development of political, economic, social and humanitarian policies of the UN.

In 2007, Sister Caroljean Willie, SC Cincinnati, assumed the role of NGO Representative. She continued the collaborative work with ECOSOC, other NGO Reps and multiple committees to apply the Vincentian charism and the Federation Strategic Plan to the development of political, economic, social and humanitarian policies of the UN. She engaged liaisons, members and Associates of the Federation congregations, the Vincentian Family, and students in the work of the UN. She educates on systemic change and the issues with presentations, newsletters, and issue alerts. Sister Cj



completes her second term in January 2015. Sister Faith also completes her service in 2015.

Sister Teresa Kotturan, SCN, has served in congregational leadership in the province of India and Nepal as well as on the Congregational Leadership Team based in KY. She collaborated as an NGO Liaison for five years and presented systemic change and UN issues to membership and their collaborators for implementation in their ministries. She brings vast international experience and studies to the role. She will begin an orientation with Sister Cj in October 2014.

Synthesis Report on Post-2015 Development Agenda

Secretary General Ban Ki-moon recently released a synthesis report entitled "The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet". He noted that this report involved an unprecedented number of consultations including Member States, the UN System, experts, a cross-section of civil society, business and millions of people from all corners of the globe. He accepted the outcome document produced by the Open Working Group which listed 17 sustainable development goals and 169 targets. He stated that these goals are a "clear expression of the vision of the Member States and

their wish to have an agenda that can end poverty, achieve shared prosperity and peace, protect the planet and leave no one behind. The new agenda should include a compelling and principled narrative, based on human rights and human dignity. It will require serious commitments for financing and other means of implementation. And it should include strong, inclusive public mechanisms at all levels for reporting, monitoring progress, learning lessons, and ensuring shared responsibility."

The Rio+20 outcome document which mandated the creation of sustainable develop-

ment goals (SDGs) declared that the "SDGs should be action-oriented, concise and easy to communicate, limited in number, aspirational, global in nature and universally applicable to all countries while taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities."

With that in mind, the Secretary General said that the synthesis report presented an integrated set of "Essential Elements".

Cont'd on page 3

Thank You, Gracias, Merci - Caroljean Willie, SC, Ph.D.

As I complete my second and final term of office as the Sisters of Charity Federation NGO representative at the United Nations, I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for entrusting me with this incredible ministry. The opportunities I have had to meet people from throughout the world both at the UN and in their home countries have enriched my life beyond measure.

One of the greatest experiences has been the opportunity to get to know members of all of the Federation congregations and to see the amazing work that we are doing together throughout the United States,

Canada and in 28 other countries in Latin America, Asia, Europe and Africa.

Serving as a member of the Vincentian Family Collaborators also broadened my understanding of who we are as members of the larger Vincentian Family. Participating in Vincentian Family programs in the United States, Europe and Africa have given me a deeper sense of what we can accomplish when we work together.

Thank you to each of the Federation congregations who so warmly welcomed me into your homes and hearts. You will always be in my thoughts and prayers.



Resources

Klein, Naomi. ***This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate.*** Simon and Schuster, 2014.

This book clearly places climate change at the center of all development and challenges the free market ideology as no longer sustainable in a world filled with injustice. It is clear, concise, and easily readable.

Max-Neef, Manfred and Philip B. Smith. ***Economics Unmasked: From Power and Greed to Compassion and the Common Good.***

The authors contend that the economic system under which we live not only forces the great majority of humankind to live their lives in indignity and poverty but also threatens all forms of life on earth.

“We know that if we continue on our current path of allowing emissions to rise year after year, climate change will change everything about our world.”

Post-2015 Agenda cont'd

“The first element is dignity: an essential element for human development, encompassing the fight against poverty and inequality. Second is people: Millions of people especially women and children, remain excluded from full participation in society...Third, prosperity: We must develop a strong, inclusive and transformative global economy. Fourth, our planet: We have an urgent duty to address climate changes and protect our ecosystems for

ourselves and our children. Fifth, justice: to build safe and peaceful societies, and strong institutions. And finally, partnership: because this agenda will be built on a foundation of global cooperation and solidarity.”

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) under the direction of its current President, Martin Sajdik of Austria, recently adopted a decision that set the theme of “Managing the transition from the

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the SDGs: what will it take? for its 2015 session, and “Implementing the post-2015 development agenda: moving from commitments to results” for its 2016 agenda.

The NGO committees throughout the UN system are addressing the multiple aspects of the SDGs and the Post-2015 Development Agenda through the lenses of their members’ experience and expertise.

Sisters of Charity Federation

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Mission Statement

Impelled by Christ's love and joined together in the mission of Charity, we, the Sisters of Charity Federation, respond to the cries of those who are poor and marginalized.

Vision Statement

Impelled by the Gospel charism of Charity, we commit ourselves to be in solidarity with our sisters and brothers who are poor and marginalized. We will use the energy of our love, the gifts and talents of the members of our communities, and our material and spiritual resources to collaborate in the creation of systemic change locally and globally for the common good of all.

Updates

- Sister Deirdre Mullan, RSM has been appointed as a consultant to UNICEF to help the UN Children's wing identify projects on the ground with whom UNICEF can collaborate. The pilot project which will be announced in January of 2015 will look at projects which focus on Feeding and Nutrition programs run by Religious Sisters. Congregations who have members in Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, India, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, and Sudan will be invited to submit information which will then be reviewed by UNICEF.
- Sister Teresa Kotturan is actively participating with Sister Faith Colligan in the multiple events pertaining to financing for development.
- The priority theme for the 2015 Commission for Social Development is "Rethinking and Strengthening Social Development in the Contemporary World."
- The main focus of the 2015 Commission on the Status of Women will be on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, including current challenges that affect its implementation and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women.
- The Sisters of Charity Federation is co-sponsoring two side events at the Commission on the Status of Women. The first is entitled "Unearthing Development: Extractivism and Women's Experience" and the second is entitled "Women's Leadership and Transformative Spirituality for a Just and Peaceful World."
- Sister Caroljean (Cj) Willie served as the Social Justice Chair at the Coady Institute at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Canada for several weeks during the fall. The Coady Institute is a learning organization dedicated to identifying, developing and disseminating knowledge on effective development practice. It is a leader in the study and practice of community-based development which provides relevant programs that help others make a positive difference in their own communities. Participants come from countries throughout the world. For more info: www.coady.stfx.ca