



Partnership for Global Justice

August 2016

Partnership For Global Justice Monthly Newsletter

Welcome to the Partnership for Global Justice Monthly – a newsletter about PGJ programs, news from the United Nations and its briefings, and information about the activities of our participating membership. With this Monthly, we invite our members to provide updates of their social justice initiatives and share their related experiences. Please respond to this posting with a comment on our blog or send your thoughts to partnershipforglobaljustice@gmail.com.

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LETTER FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

Dear Partners for Global Justice,

2016 has been a memorable year for many reasons. In the United States, we have the first woman to be nominated for the position of the presidency by a major party. In the United Nations, there is a call for a woman to be chosen for the next Secretary-General of the United Nations to replace Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, who finishes his office in December. Six women have been nominated, along with six men. *[Editor's Note: One of each has since withdrawn]*

Just this month, we have witnessed athletes from all over the world competing peacefully in Olympic events, often making lasting friendships with each other. During this month, the very first Refugee Olympic Team marched with the Olympic flag immediately before the host nation Brazil at the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games in Rio. The IOC president, Thomas Bach, made this statement: *"This team is a symbol of hope for all the refugees in our world, and will make the world better aware of the magnitude of this crisis. It is also a signal to the international community that refugees are our fellow human beings and are an enrichment to society."*

This is also the year proclaimed by Pope Francis as the *Jubilee Year of Mercy*. The World Youth Day was held in Poland, where Pope Francis called the youth to become *apostles of mercy* and to encounter *(Jesus) in the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the sick, the friend in trouble, the prisoner, the refugee and the migrant, and our neighbors who feel abandoned.* He encouraged them *"to be politicians, thinkers, social activists, and to devise an economy inspired by solidarity."*

Is not this just what PGJ is all about? Is not this what each of us who are members is about, whether as individual members or members of a Religious Community or a university? We know that the UN has been successful in alleviating extreme poverty and in bringing about greater peace and justice in many countries. However, we also know that, as global citizens, there are many of our brothers and sisters who are still facing great poverty and hunger, violence in war torn countries, sexual abuse, trafficking and discrimination. Many have been displaced and are not welcome anywhere, living in refugee camps and in our poorest neighborhoods. Some are completely homeless.

Yes, we still have much work to do and you are doing it, especially in your support and membership of PGJ. I take this moment to thank you again and wish you the best. May we continue to live in peace, justice and mercy.

Mary Ellen Loch, CSJ

Board Chair





MORE FROM JULY AT THE UN



Global Youth Forum One World Many Languages July 29, 2016

by Will Hanisch

Hello, everyone, My name is William Hanisch and I am from Butler, New Jersey. On July 29th, 2015 I had the ultimate privilege of attending the **One World Many Languages: Global Youth Forum** in the United Nations General Assembly Hall. The event was my first ever experience at the UN and I can firmly say that it changed my life and created a concrete idea of what I want to do in my future endeavors and career choice.

From the moment I stepped foot past the security checkpoints onto the hallowed grounds that have hosted hundreds of powerful foreign dignitaries and pop culture icons, I realized where exactly I was in the world. Excitement over took me, and I almost forgot that I was running late to the Forum due to the delayed buses. I made it to the General Assembly Hall and took my seat admiring the large open room and giant marble podium.

When the event began, I was immediately enchanted by all of the speakers and their solutions to the UN's seventeen sustainable development goals. What impressed me even more was the fact all of these speakers were not talking in their native language, but only in the six official UN languages. The collection of different ideals, cultures, and languages showed me how connected the world has become and that countries must build bridges instead of walls to achieve a better world for all of humanity to live and thrive in for many years to come.

My visit to the UN has impacted me to work as hard as I can throughout college to hopefully make it there one day and call its halls and corridors my everyday view. As of September, I will be starting my Freshman year at Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey. I will be majoring in International Relations and Diplomacy and surely my visit to the United Nations at such a young age will put me ahead of the curve. The United Nations is a gorgeous place and I consider myself to be the luckiest kid I know to have had such a wonderful experience.

Selecting the Next Secretary-General

Over the past few months, the General Assembly has been preparing for the selection of a new Secretary-General, as Mr. Ban Ki-moon completes his second term on December 31.

The process began with a [letter](#) from Mr. **Mogens Lykketoft (Denmark)**, President of the General Assembly at the time, and Ms. **Samantha Power (USA)**, President of the Security Council, to all Permanent Representatives (representatives of Member States) and Permanent Observers (representatives of non-members, like the Holy See, as the Vatican is known at the UN), inviting them to put forward names of possible candidates. The final selection will be made by the General Assembly in consultation with the Security Council.

Over the past years, the tradition has been to [vary the region](#) from which the Secretary-General comes. Since Secretary-General Ban is from Asia, it is unlikely that another Asian will succeed him. Also, representatives from the five Permanent Members of the Security Council (United States, United Kingdom, France, the Russian Federation, and China) are not considered, as that would add to the already exceptional influence of these countries.

For the first time, this selection process will not be a closely guarded secret among the General Assembly and members of the Security Council. In an effort to be transparent and open, informal dialogues with the candidates were scheduled in April and June, open to observers from Civil Society (NGOs like the Partnership) and other interested parties and were televised globally. Also for the first time, the Presidents specifically invited the Members to present women candidates.

In August, the Security Council has begun considering the ten candidates (two have withdrawn) – including five women – and took a straw poll to see how Members were leaning. Pictures of the candidates, the nominating documents, each one's vision of what the position will require, and the informal dialogues are all available at the bottom of the [web page](#) describing the process.

The General Assembly will present the selected candidate at sometime this Fall.



By Sr. JoAnn Mark, ASC

On August 12, there were two simultaneous events hosted at the UN to celebrate [International Youth Day](#). One session focused on the Theme for the Day: *The Road to 2030: Eradicating Poverty and Achieving Sustainable Consumption and Production*. The other focused on *Investing in Young Women's Leadership as Key to Implementing the SDGs*. Due to other commitments I was only able to attend the 3pm - 6 pm session.

Sustainable consumption and production are major issues that must be faced. For example, do you know that your iPhone uses products from 12 different countries? You can begin to sensitize yourself to issues regarding consumption and production by asking yourself questions such as "Who grew my food Who made my clothes?"

The session on the Day's Theme included speakers, most of whom were youth, and the opportunity for youth to prepare a resolution which had three parts: Introduction, Recommendations, and Pledges. Here in short are the six pledges:

- fight for economic equality,
- partner with international groups,
- fight climate change,
- fight for gender equality,
- fight for these values by way of policy design,
- hold ourselves accountable.



Half of the world's population is less than 25 years of age. A key challenge is not to make them a liability but to give them the opportunities to become leaders in moving our world toward the achievement of the SDGs.

Those present at the session on Young Women heard from a panel of speakers which included Jane Baldwin from MasterCard in Toronto regarding the scholarship provided in 31 countries; Aria Mia Lobarti, who challenged young women to move from victim to survivor; Monica Singh, who stressed that leadership is not a choice anymore, it is a requirement; Jennifer Estrada of HerStory Campaign; and Katherine J. Wynne who is employed in a Wall Street Bank.

The [HerStory Campaign](#), a collaboration between nonprofit organizations [LitWorld](#) and [Global G.L.O.W.](#), is a powerful blend of program content and engaged media outreach, lifting up the stories of women and girls to create lasting equitable change in the world. The stories from 25 countries on the HerStory website affirm the fact that women lead differently.

Ms. Wynne concluded her presentation with these two questions: "What have you done for women lately? What are you going to do when you leave here?"

In like manner I conclude this article with two questions: *What have you done for women lately? What are you going to do when you finish reading this article?*

Spotlight on Our Members

In this section of the Newsletter, we highlight activities by PGJ members that advance the work of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. For a list of [current PGJ members](#), see our website.

Monastery of the Heart

[Monasteries of the Heart](#) is a growing online and onsite movement sharing Benedictine spirituality with contemporary seekers around the world. The **Benedictine Sisters of Erie** started the movement in 2011 in conjunction with the publication of the book, *The Monastery of the Heart: An Invitation to a Meaningful Life*, by Sister Joan Chittister. The movement underlines the truth that there is a common, deeply human hunger and longing for God for which the monastic way of life has an answer.

Chittister, a noted international lecturer and author, writes, “Monasteries of the Heart invites members to hold onto the God their hearts seek in a way that transcends both political polarization and ecclesiastical competition. It enables them to concentrate on fashioning—either alone or in groups—contemplative monasteries of justice and peace, equality and universal care. Wherever they are.”

Each week Monasteries of the Heart invites members to participate in the main elements of the living monastic tradition: prayer, lectio, good work, study and community. Regular and mindful attention to these practices can help form a monastic heart.

For the Erie Benedictines, the online, worldwide monastery is a natural extension of who they are. With a public corporate commitment to be a healing presence and prophetic witness for peace by working for sustainability and justice, especially for women and children, their physical presence is felt in the city of Erie in liturgy and hospitality at the actual monastery and in ministries such as the Inner-city **Neighborhood Art House**, **St. Benedict Education Center**, **Emmaus Soup Kitchen** and **Benedictines for Peace**. Find out more about the Benedictine Sisters of Erie at eriebenedictines.org.



Advocacy for Refugees and Migrants

In preparation for the September 19 UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants, The Partnership has signed a Postcard designed by Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns with many others, asking President Obama and Congress to “lead by example” in aiding refugees. Global goals for refugees include increasing humanitarian aid by 30%, doubling the number of refugee resettlement and admission opportunities, guaranteeing work for one million more refugees, and ensuring access to education for one million more refugee children.

If you would like to send a postcard, or get copies for your group to sign by September 12, go to

<http://maryknollogc.org/alerts/sign-postcard-raise-your-voice-refugees>

Because the UN is closed to all but official Delegates from September 12 through 23 for the General Assembly meeting, we will not be able to attend the Summit. However, it will be broadcast on [UN WebTV](#).

Let’s Keep Connected:

Please link the Partnership for Global Justice Website to your community’s website.

<http://www.partnershipforglobaljustice.com/>

2016 PGJ Annual Meeting

Don’t Forget to sign up for The PGJ 2016 Annual Meeting, which will be held at the Maryknoll Mission Center in Ossining, NY on October 15, 2016. (The first Global Justice Foundation Member attendant receives complimentary registration.) Call or email for more information:

212-682-6481 E-mail Address: Partnershipforglobaljustice@gmail.com

Watch UN Events Live

As always, you can watch live coverage (and often stored videos) of major UN events at the UN WebTV channel. Click the language button to hear them in English). A list of daily events is listed in the UN Journal at 11pm the day before. Webcasts are indicated by a small red icon of a camera.