



Partnership for Global Justice

July 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](mailto:partnershipforglobaljustice@gmail.com).

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## LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Member,

In this letter I will bring you up to date on a number of issues.

First, the **Religious at the UN (RUN)** have received a one-year planning grant from the Hilton Foundation. The Grant is intended to “... allow RUN to make an informed recommendation about what kind of collaboration is feasible among RUN members and congregation members at the grassroots.” I have been asked to serve on a subcommittee and will keep you informed of developments.

Second, the **High Level Political Forum (HLPF)** on Sustainable Development with the theme “Ensuring No One is Left Behind” met at the UN Headquarters from July 11-20. As I indicated on the Partnership for Global Justice Blog, HLPF is the most UN inclusive gathering of any organization as it includes member states, major groups and stakeholders. Please see the blog for a list of the major groups.

The presentations by member states and major groups have broadened my understanding of people and the challenges faced by countries, groups and individuals. Quite challenging for me is to have the “new mindset” that is required. At points in time I think I understand what that means but then it slips away from me. Although I did not come from a wealthy family and have served the needy, I realize how my education and my opportunities have given me a view that must be broadened to ensure that all people are part of the decision making and that I do not see the vulnerable ones as persons “to be helped” but as individuals to be engaged.

Third, the **side event** I attended titled “**Civil Society-Is It Shrinking After the SDGs?**” The speakers indicated that indeed civil society space is shrinking but not just at the UN. In many countries the freedom to speak and to gather is being curtailed. Some of this is because we have been successful in enabling indigenous people and in empowering women and girls. In some areas people are “scared of smart girls” who through education become women who change society. This changes the power balance. Others cut back on civil society in a false reaction to terrorism or in the name of their culture which does not accept human rights as universal.

Fourth, there have been **sessions in preparation for the [UN High-Level Meeting on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants](#)** which will be held on September 19, 2016. The following day President Obama is hosting a **Leaders’ Summit on the Global Refugee Crisis** to galvanize significant new global commitments to: 1) increase funding to humanitarian appeals and international organizations, 2) admit more refugees through resettlement or other legal pathways, and 3) increase refugees’ self-reliance and inclusion through opportunities for education and legal work. Please watch the news for information on this summit.

Fifth, RUN had members preparing a sheet of **information on each of the SDGs**. The information can then be adapted for presentations to various groups. If you are planning a presentation, let me know and I will send you appropriate resource material.

I hope to see you at **PGJ’s Annual Meeting** in October.

Sincerely,

JoAnn Mark, ASC



**June 2, 2016 – Roundtable Debate: Prevention of Violent Extremism through Education** by Sr. M. Doretta Cornell, RDC

**Opening panel:**

The Permanent Representative of Tunisia, **Ghazi Jomaa**, explained Tunisia’s efforts to counter violent extremism through its schools, by promoting diversity and acceptance of others and providing alternatives provides alternatives, cultural and other programs to channel young people’s energy in positive directions. Mr. Jomaa also urged the UN to be a model of equality and tolerance in all its workings, incorporating the principles of the Secretary-General’s Global Citizenship Education Plan.

The Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the UN, **Hahn Choong-hee**, noted that, because military responses have proved to be inadequate, we must concentrate on education to address extremism, to teach people judgement and discernment to see what is wrong, what is damaging rather than improving society.

Mr. Hahn points out what makes young people susceptible to extremist propaganda: “No hope, no future, no jobs, no education, plus the recent increase in forced displacement and migration.” Therefore, “We must examine the orientation of the education,” not just level of it. Young people need education about extremism, so they will have the knowledge to reject it.

Mr. Hahn ended by referring to the [Closing Statement](#) of the **66th DPINGO Conference** that had just concluded in Korea: *Education for Global Citizenship is essential to prevent violence, to build human rights and mutual understanding and respect for people of other religions and civilizations.*

The **Interactive Panel** included Ms. **Soo Hyang Choi**, Director, UNESCO Division of Inclusion, Peace and Sustainable Development, Paris, France, who pointed out three ways education can “reduce the attraction on violence:”

- 1) *Talk about taboo, sensitive issues* such as religion, ethnic differences, particular conflicts, to counter misinformation they gather from other sources.
- 2) *Present good values to students*, not just by talking about them but by living them so that students can experience the value of respect for all.
- 3) *Change our beliefs systems* to eliminate elements of them that foster discrimination and remove them. This will demand political commitment.

Ms. Soo explained that **UNESCO** has published a guide for accomplishing these things for teachers, is developing one for policy makers, and will offer a conference on the topic in New Delhi.

Mr. **Dean Peidmont**, Director, Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) and Reintegration Initiative, New York, warned of potential harm from not treating different groups appropriately; for instance, working toward peacebuilding is different from working with former extremist fighters. He urged us to study the “types and levels of risks” and “which aspects of violence might erupt in any particular country,” and recognize that education, especially for girls is perceived as a threat in some countries.



On a positive note, Mr. Piedmont cited a recent report in *The Journal for Conflict Resolution*: in Colombia, **56% of former extremists** gave education as the reason for their disengagement from violent groups.

Ms. **Naureen Chowdhury Fink**, Head of Research and Analysis, Global Centre for Cooperative Security, New York, spoke of the recent incidence of women as perpetrators and mobilizers who extol a supposedly utopian vision of life under ISIS as freedom from Western Civilization. Terrorist rhetoric claims to represent traditional family and Islam's values.

To engage women in peacemaking, we must first look at ways that women are already working against violence and not support, for instance, "anti-terrorist" laws that will lead to heavier policing, which can lead to more risks for women. Ms. Fink spoke of educational initiatives in **Pakistan**, such as allowing women teachers to work with boys, peer-to-peer youth interaction, and engaging youth in developing processes against violence.

Mr. **Abdihafid Yussuf Abdi**, co-founder of Teachers Against Violent Extremism and co-chair of Community Development Initiative, Nairobi, Kenya, spoke of the importance of making young people feel part of the community, letting them know that the government is interested in them, by using social media, youth councils, etc.

In **Kenya**, programs help parents identify and intervene when their children engage in risky behavior and help mentor young people for good. Others help teachers address terrorism in the classroom, by discussing and challenging what they read, and presenting Islam through "proper interpretations." Students are also taught to recognize ideology in social media and analyze recruitment techniques and propaganda of extremists. They are working to engage whole community in creating environments that discourage extremism.

Mr. **Benjamin Ducol**, is the Research Manager, Centre for the Prevention of Radicalization Leading to Violence in Montreal, **Canada**, the first center of its kind in North America. Created after Canada had a couple of extremist attacks and saw young people leaving to join extremist groups, the Centre teaches teachers and parents what to do when they see undesirable behaviors, rather than calling the police, which can criminalize youth, which has not been effective prevention. The Centre is a nonprofit group building trust in communities, engaging families as the teachers of their children, employing social workers and psychologists, not government or police.

Mr. Ducol identified *five dimensions* of the Centre's work:

- 1) Provide understanding about what radicalization really is, so they can identify the real problem in a situation;
- 2) Create initiatives for tolerance, dialogue, and intercultural exchange;
- 3) Provide places for young people to speak on local and taboo issues, and materials for teachers to bring the debates to the classroom;
- 4) Provide digital resources and competency, to analyze material on the Internet.
- 5) Build youth leaders in schools and other venues. This is a major component against radicalism: identify youth as positive leaders so that, when they see radicalism starting in schools, they can act.

The **Responder to the Panel** was a young woman from **Pakistan**, Ms. **Anusheh Bakht**, who told how extremist recruiters build in grievance within a country. Pakistan suffered its 392nd drone attack the previous week: Taliban leaders use these attacks to recruit. We must press our leaders to seek diplomatic, rather than military, solutions. Pakistan's youth need more opportunities to critique curricula that are often politicized; for instance, violent *jihad* is often presented as an essential of Islam. Ms. Bakht stressed that young people need to be involved in making decisions and to call on leaders to "look beyond political gains toward the benefit of humanity." It is also important for people to understand what a country is really like (Pakistan is not a "terrorist country") and why certain things are happening (Pakistan has lost more than 30,000 people in the War on Terrorism.)

The **Question and Answer** period brought up the need for young people to learn critical thinking and for respect for young people's thinking, engaging the questions they see as important; instruction about Islam and reading the Koran itself, to see that extremist claims are not in the text. Ms. Fink pointed out the difficulty of employing some of the educational strategies in a country like Pakistan, where rote methods prevail and a teacher may have 200 or more students in a class.

**. June 30, 2016 High-Level Global Migration Group Multi-Stakeholder Meeting: Protecting the Human Rights of All People in Vulnerable Situations Within Large Movements** by Sr. JoAnn Mark, asc

This meeting was a precursor to the September 19 High-Level Meeting on Migration. I will share with you, what for me, were some of the “take aways” from this meeting which filled the room to overflowing indicating the high level of interest in the topic.

There is need for a coherent organization within the UN on migration.

- Traditionally it has been hard to talk about the human rights of migrants due to a concern that such talk will lead to binding rules.
- Both Mexico and US have had concerns about protecting the human rights of migrants.
- Tragedy of migration has always been present, but the migrant population has shifted dramatically to women, children and unaccompanied minors.
- In many countries opinion is going against migrants, consequently, those countries must provide strong positive public relations.
- People are generally more open to refugees than to migrants; Italy has overcome this difference.
- How does the world provide an opportunity for people who want to move without forcing them to turn to smugglers or traffickers?
- The world is at a crossroads: the intersection of fear and intolerance with the truth that we have far more in common than what divides us.
- We all benefit from living in societies where every person has basic human rights.
- The world needs a comprehensive migrant legal system that covers all.
- Strong societies cannot be built by dividing people.
- Criminal groups are taking advantage of the migrants, and no one country can solve this problem alone.
- Some migrants prefer access to the internet and information over food; accurate information is very important to them.
- Focus on the positive contributions of immigrant women.
- Avoid words like “swarms” or “hordes,” as they dehumanize.
- At present the US is having difficulty living up to its heritage of accepting migrants.
- UNICEF asked that special attention be paid to unaccompanied minors; they need warmth, human love, etc.
- Climate change will cause more migration than the world has ever experienced.
- **There are 65 million displaced persons; how can we live with that?**



## COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN YOUTH

By Sr. JoAnn Mark, asc June 30, 2016

The discussion at this meeting was certainly relevant given that on the next day, 1 July, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution on the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy, with the aim of security peace and prosperity for succeeding generations.

Members of the panel shared “lessons learned.” Here are a few of them.:

- There is no “one size fits all.”
- There needs to be national ownership of any anti-terrorism strategy.
- This work requires patience and persistence; theory of change approach was helpful.
- Participants must have a commitment to dialogue, accountability, humility and respect.
- Program needs to include facilitating offenders back in to society.
- Concentric circles model served Somalia well.
- Process is of utmost importance; it must be specific in content and sustainable, involve raising and include funds for programming.
- There needs to be more inclusion of civil societies in discussion.
- Involving youth is important.
- There is a need to outlaw “incitements” to terrorism.

See <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=54387#.V3vtTo-cEo> for more information on the resolution on UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on July 1, 2016.



## High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development July 2016

*Theme in 2016: Ensuring That No One Is Left Behind*

### July 11 Opening Of the Forum and Session 1

by Sr. M. Doretta Cornell, RDC

#### Opening Of the Forum

The Forum was officially opened by the Chair, His Excellency Mr. **Oh Joon**, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the UN and President of ECOSOC. Mr. **Wu Hongbo**, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, noted that the Forum had received twenty-two country reviews, presented voluntarily; this is great progress, he noted, “for people, planet, peace, and prosperity.”

Mr. Wu presented six things he observed in the reviews, for successful implementing of the SDGs: 1) Leadership matters; 2) Institutions matter – create new ones or engage existing ones; 3) Interlinkages are important; 4) Coherence is important; 5) Monitoring mechanisms are vital and must be put in place; and 6) All stakeholders have a role; Internal partnerships are vital and are forming.

#### HLPF Session 1 *Where do we stand at year one?*

Mr. **Wu Hangbo** gave a short presentation on the Secretary-General’s SDG Progress Report:

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) build on the success of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Much is still needed, especially for the most vulnerable. The

greatest global challenge is to eradicate extreme poverty. The MDGs brought the percentage of people in poverty from 26% to 13%; however, 800 million people still live in poverty. The Paris Agreement is a remarkable achievement for hope for the environment. For continuing success, we need enhanced global partnerships so all available resources can be mobilized toward the SDGs. To date, \$131.5 billion have been committed, but this is not enough to meet the needs. Armed conflicts, economic inequality are major hindrances. More and better data are needed to push progress and plan for the future.

The Moderator, Ms. **Paula Caballero Gomez**, Senior Director of the Environment and Natural Resources Global Practice, World, noted that the huge potential of the SDGs will demand a move from incremental changes to huge dedicated shifts, if we are to meet these 2030 Goals.

The first Speaker, Mr. **Debapriya Bhattacharya**, Distinguished Fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue and Chair of Southern Voice on Post-MDG International Development Goals, noted the **Good News** that the SDGs have “hit the ground running” since they have built on programs from the MDGs. Southern nations have made progress in integrating the SDGs at national levels. Finance Ministries, however, are not as prompt; this is a challenge. With an integrated strategy, it is less clear how much funding will be needed.

The **Bad News**: the MDGs were accomplished in an economic boom; growth rates now are not as high.

Ms. **Christiana Figueres**, former Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), focused on the need for greater clarity: “Leave no one behind” must focus on the most vulnerable people across countries and within countries; we must lift those furthest behind first.

Ms. Figueres emphasized the importance of measurements at all levels, to ensure and monitor progress. Local data is vital, she stressed: if the global average on food is good, it means nothing to those without food. We should begin with what our goals for 2030 are and work back to what is needed to achieve each, keeping in mind the impact on people, not just on meeting goals.

Mr. **Martin Tsounkeu**, General Representative of the Africa Development Interchange Network, posed two vital questions: How do we work for those most in need first? and How many countries are really engaged in meeting their commitments with qualitative change?

Mr. **Jose Maria Viera**, Human Rights and Development Policy Advisor at World Blind Union, spoke strongly of the need to include people with disabilities, who were left behind in the MDGs.

The **Questions and Answer** period raised questions about the adequacy of information about the needs of women and children and how they will be affected by SDG targets, the lack of many stakeholders’ voices in the 2016 report, and difficulties of establishing base line data by which to measure progress in less developed countries.

A major theme in the comments was that to achieve the SDGs a **shift in mindset** is essential. This means recognizing how interrelated all the Goals are and how our usual ways of living our lives and conducting business contribute to the inequalities and crises that plague our world. A representative from Kenya commented that, if we can change the mindset, implementation will be easy. Changes in financial structures are also a huge need: As one person noted, we have a \$320 trillion economy, but governments are using the money in unsustainable ways. Our challenge is to change that.



# ENSURING THAT NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND: ENVISIONING AN INCLUSIVE WORLD IN 2030

**July 11 HLPF Session 2** by Sr. M. Doretta Cornell, RDC

A **representative from the United States** (whose name I was unable to hear, perhaps Executive Director Karen Lash) described an initiative to increase equal access to justice in the **United States**. A White House Justice Roundtable was established in 2012, including twenty-two US agencies, to increase availability of legal aid. This includes a program to help young people who have been involved with the justice system. This is related to **SDG 16: Peace Justice and Strong Institutions**.

Panelists:

Mr. **Ion Junga**, Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations and Chair of the 54th session of the Commission for Social Development, noted that inclusion is the core of the SDGs, not just economic but also social inclusion, including participation at all levels. Violent conflicts are hindering progress. Each nation must establish systems to meet the Goals.

Ms. **Onalenna Selolwane**, Executive Committee member of the Mosadi Khumo Socio-Economic Empowerment Forum for Women and member of the Committee for Development Policy (CDP), from **Botswana**, noted that she was there, among other things, as a person from “the world of poverty.”

The UN keeps adding African countries to the list of countries with structural problems, she reminded us, but not one has moved off the list. Therefore, **as a global community, we have failed** these Least Developed Countries, in spite of 44 years and billions of dollars. She cited “huge numbers” of Africans who have never been to school; 24% and more in Botswana, Zambia, and others. Huge changes are necessary to enable these countries to take their future into own hands and empower them. Otherwise, they will continue to be “fodder for violence.”

One necessary shift Mrs. Sololwane named: only a small portion of the international wealth that is generated in Africa stays in Africa. This needs to be reversed.

In a very poignant moment, she asked, “Where is the money going?” She has been astonished by what she sees here in New York: dirty subways, so many homeless people. “Where is the money going?” she asked us.

Mr. **Alvaro Esteban** Pop Ac, Chair of the 15th session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), pointed out that an inclusive society must include **Indigenous peoples**. Many projects for economic development have been devastating to Indigenous communities. Indigenous people are often not represented in national statistics.

Indigenous people are subjects with human rights, They need to participate in law and policy development plans. Mr. Esteban pointed out that many Indigenous peoples have knowledge and environmental practices that can advance national and global environmental goals. They must be include



.By Sr. JoAnn Mark, ASC

SDG (Sustainable Development Goal) 4.7 reads as follows: *By 2030 ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.*

At this side event I learned about two organizations established in response to the SDG on education. One is the **Coalition for Global Citizenship 2030** at <https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/impact/> and the other is **The Bridge 47 Network** at <http://www.kehys.fi/bridge47>. At these websites you may find material that will help you if you plan to speak to others about global citizenship.

Personally, I have **three take-aways** from what I heard on Tuesday morning.

1) The education system has to address the negative as well as the positive aspects of

globalization.

2) Global education must be more than knowledge and skills; it must include values and

the ability to discern what is right and peaceful.

3) Teachers must have a global mindset in order to convey global citizenship.



## Leaving No-One Behind – From Promise to Reality

According to its material, [P20 Initiative](#) aims to do three things

- 1) Focus attention on the people in the poorest 20%
- 2) Understand who the P20 are and
- 3) Leave no one behind.

Here are a few of the facts that **Harpinder Collacott** shared with those present

- 23% of children globally are stunted developmentally because of poor nutrition; 44% of children in P20 are stunted
- 9 countries have no poverty data
- Less than 10% of adults in P20 have completed secondary education
- 2/3 of children in P20 had no skilled attendant present at their birth
- Only 1/3 of African countries have a functioning registration system. Registration makes one eligible for services and makes one "visible."

**Project Everyone** is seeking to make the SDGs known. **Kate Garvey** shared efforts of this group. All their materials are open source and can be accessed at [www.project-everyone.org](http://www.project-everyone.org) and #What I Really Want. They are trying to make the goals have meaning for each person.

There were a number of other speakers; however, two provided insights new to me. **Roberto Borrero**, who spoke for Indigenous Peoples Major Group, made a **case for inclusion**, saying, "If you're not at the table, you are probably on the menu." The resources of indigenous peoples have too long been ravaged by "those at the table." **Luisa Emilia Reyes** from Women's Major Group said there is not enough money in the world to pay women for all their work; thus women are subsidizing the economy



## 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.*

### News from Sr. Catherine Artale, CIJ:

The **Congregation of the Infant Jesus** in Rockville Center, NY, are engaged in many small efforts that can bring about significant change. This is the conviction of the CIJ's Social Justice Committee. This committee was formed in 2013 and has focused on the agenda of LCWR issues: Gun Control, Human Trafficking, Climate Change and Economic Equality.

*Reflective conversation and action for good* has spurred us on. During the past three years, we have participated in the March for Climate Change in Manhattan, initiated conversation on *Laudato Si'*, sent letters to legislators on economic equality and human trafficking, volunteered teaching immigrant women to learn English as a second language, and advocated for a local bus to serve areas in need.

These actions and others moved by the Spirit have and continue to motivate us to act justly for the benefit of others.



**Take Part in the MY WORLD Survey on Women’s Economic Empowerment**

If you have not yet taken the short (3 minutes or less) survey on women and Economic Empowerment, please consider adding your voice to improve conditions for women in every country of the world. <http://empowerwomen.myworld2030.org/>

As Sr. JoAnn wrote in her July 4 email, “The UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment has teamed up with the UN Sustainable Development Goals Action Campaign to roll out a **women's economic empowerment edition of the MY World survey** on how we can help women get better jobs, earn more money, and start a business. The survey will gather people's views on the world of women and work – from the barriers they face to ideas that could act as force multipliers to their economic progress. Additional information on why the UN is carrying out the survey can also be found here: <http://empowerwomen.myworld2030.org/about-us/en/>”

**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](mailto: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.