



Partnership for Global Justice

May 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 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Member,

During May we celebrated the Ascension, Pentecost, Trinity Sunday and Corpus Christi. All those special days plus Mothers' Day, the International Day of Families, and Memorial Day remind me of the poet Rumi's quote, "*Every object and being in the universe is a jar overflowing with wisdom and beauty.*" So, let us rejoice and be glad!

As we move into the month of June, we approach the **one-year anniversary of *Laudato Si'***. I encourage you to host some special event during the week of June 12. Many ideas are available on the [webpage](#) for the Global Catholic Climate Movement. Given how close we are to June 12, you will probably want to do something simple and think ahead to September, a month for remembering the earth.

You might also check [Tierra Sagrada](#) (Sacred Earth, Sacred Trust) which is the name of a global day of prayer and action for creation on June 12. As Pope Francis indicated in *Laudato Si'* "Everyone's talents and involvement are needed to redress the damage caused by human abuse of God's creation" (14), so let us encourage one another with positive ideas and actions. As indicated in an earlier newsletter, *Laudato Si'* correlates well with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

At the May Board Meeting of the Partnership for Global Justice, the Board discussed a number of items that will be presented to the membership at the **Annual Meeting** on October 15. Items included review of the year, plans for the next several years, graphic designs of a new PGJ logo, activation of regional representatives and policy for PGJ sign-on to documents. Your input on these issues is vital to the functioning of the Partnership, so please plan to attend the Annual Meeting. If you are not able to send your payment until the next fiscal year but want to make sure you have a room at Maryknoll Mission Center, please email me that you plan to attend. I sent registration forms on April 25. However, if you need me to resend, just let me know.

In my March letter I invited members **to share activities and/or services which support the achievement of the SDGs**. I again invite you to this sharing. In this newsletter you will see what I hope will be a regular section of the newsletter, a sharing of two of our members. If I do not receive volunteers for future newsletters, I will contact two members and ask for submissions. I know you all do amazing work but are hesitant to put yourselves forward.

I will be out of the office for part of June attending our ASC Regional Assembly and making my annual retreat. I may or may not have access to my email. Please keep me and my community in your prayer.

May you find each day is full of God's surprises!

JoAnn Mark, ASC
Executive Director, Partnership for Global Justice



The past couple of months were full of interesting and important conferences, mostly tied into the implementation of the new Sustainable Development Goals. Some of these were reported last month, but we add some more from April here, along with the news from May.

High Level Thematic Debate on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) April 21, 2016

by Sr. JoAnn Mark, ASC

Drummers from Mamaroneck High School, of Mamaroneck, NY, played as participants and observers gathered for the first session of the High Level Debate. They were followed by words from Mogens Lykketoft, President of the UN General Assembly, who reminded those present of the great hope with which they approved the SDGs in September and the Climate Agreement in December. Since then, world events have threatened the lives and human rights of many but the states have approved a solid framework of accountability and partnership for implementation with urgency

Mr. Lykketoft indicated that the day's discussions would touch on 5 themes:

- sharing on how countries are supporting achievement of the SDGs
- information on how to move money and markets to support the SDGs, i.e. eliminating tax evasions, etc.
- transitioning from partnerships for MDGs to partnerships for SDGs
- new technology in support of SDGs
- how climate action can help achieve the SDGs.

He ended by urging transformation that is good for people and planet, transformation that countries know how to do, so "Let's make it happen."

Other speakers at this session included the Deputy Secretary General, a 17-year-old high school student, a social activist, a representative of the private sector, a Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, a leading scientist and a leading economist. They all emphasized the importance of engagement by all countries and all segments of society: youth, citizens, private sector, governments, and researchers. They provided great hope that the SDGs will be achieved, that the population of the world will make the choices required to do this.

In the second session, country representatives shared how they are supporting achievement of the SDGs in their country. I will mention the actions of only a few of the countries here:

Republic of Peru: Water, food and education are being taken to places not served in the past.

Namibia: Last year, Namibia had an all-out war on poverty.

Colombia: 86% of targets have already had some action; for the first time, the education budget is greater than that of the military.

Bulgaria: Students and teachers are receiving education on the importance of the SDGs.



Education for Global Citizenship: Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals Together – Youth as Agents of Change April 28, 2016

by Sr. JoAnn Mark, ASC

Important facts/ideas:

- The world has the largest generation of youth ever
- The largest group of unemployed youth is in Asia
- The first meeting of youth was held in 1936\
- Young people are saying “I am from the world” not I am from a given country
- 10 million people participated in the [My World Survey](#); 7 million of these were less than 30 years of age from 193 countries
- 3 years after the introduction of the MDGs, no one in the youth group knew about them
- Youth needs to promote the SDGs
- Youth are makers of change finding solutions
- Global citizenship is difficult in a venue like the UN where state sovereignty is supreme
- In 8 countries, more that 50% of young people aged 20-24 years have less than 2 years of schooling
- Worldwide, 103 million young people (ages 15-24) are illiterate
- To get youth involved in SDGs, have them choose an SDG to share with a partner and then take a selfie to send to Partnership for Global Justice or their choice of location



#EU4HumanRights is a joint initiative of the EU and its Member States launched by the High Representative in March 2016.

The invitation stated, “Protecting and promoting the space for civil society [*that is, non-governmental agencies and groups*] to participate in multilateral fora is one of the European Union’s key human rights priorities. Civil society plays a crucial role in protecting human rights worldwide and interaction with civil society actors is essential for the success of UN processes and to effectively promote universal respect for human rights.”

Ms. Cristina Gallach, Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, United Nations, said that the role of civil society in promotion of Human Rights is critical. In the implementation of the SDGs, civil societies must be involved at all levels. We need “sustainable justice.”

H.E. Karel van Oosterom, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations, said the role of civil society in European Union countries is to speak the “inconvenient truth.” Civil societies help make companies live up to responsibilities especially in the areas of water and sanitation; they also keep governments in check.

Ms. Stephanie David, Representative of the International Federation for Human Rights to the United Nations, spoke about some of what she has experienced recently at the UN. There is a growing fear of terrorism and increased anti-refugee sentiment. There are efforts to prevent the admission of human rights organizations into countries. At the last General Assembly, a resolution for protection of civil societies was proposed; China and Russia asked that it be put to a vote and 14 countries voted against it. There is a developing trend in the Security Council to remove NGOs from informal forums.

Ms. Debra Jones, Director and United Nations Representative of Save the Children in New York, said children need to be seen as agents of change; there needs to be civil society space for children and age-appropriate materials on the Sustainable Development Goals for children. To come in to the UN, one needs to be 18. Adults need to be willing to listen to the children and youth.

Additional comments from those in attendance:

Think of all the children under 7 currently in refugee camps; what will we have in 2030?
Civil societies need to keep governments true to what they agreed at the UN
Civil Society representatives need to make better use of opportunities to present oral and written statements in UN forums.



The **NGO Committee on Sustainable Development** devoted its May meeting to *SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.*

The **Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka** described the advances that Sri Lanka has made in education. At this time 97% of Sri Lankan Youth are literate.

The **Director of UNESCO Liaison Office New York Office** shared an email she had just received which informed her that an education steering committee was being formed in Paris and that UNESCO has been designated to coordinate efforts related to education. After speaking to all the benefits that education provides she closed with, "How lucky we are to be born here where we could go to school."

The **Permanent Observer of the University for Peace to the United Nations** gave the background of the University, which began in 1980. He also named the many programs now available, including 12 academic programs in peace. He stated, "Since war begins in the minds of men, we can only have peace by disarming minds."

The **Communications Officer for the United Nation Academic Impact (UNAI)** reminded those present that UNAI was established in 2010 in an effort to engage students, faculty, and researchers in UN goals. There are now more than 1200 members.

The **Co-Founder & President of the Zariki Nursery and Primary School in Tanzania** shared why she and her father began the Nursery and School and how it has grown. Her presentation highlighted the ongoing educational needs in Tanzania.

The **Founder and Innovator at Global Impact Alliance** spoke about sustainable business and the need for entrepreneurs which she seeks to develop. She stated that entrepreneurs create 80% of all jobs in the world.

The final speaker was the Director of **Peacebuilders and Community Relations at COMPASS Youth Collaborative**. The Peacebuilders program is one that operates "on the streets." He indicated that the youth with whom he relates are poor, homeless and jobless. Seventy percent come from single-parent households. He ended by saying, "You cannot be more human than caring for the person next to you."

On a personal note: I found the last three speakers to be especially impressive as they shared their commitments. Having spent almost a year in Tanzania I have some knowledge of the educational need and, having visited the University for Peace in its very early years, I had some first-hand knowledge of its location and mission. So these presentations brought many images to mind.



May 23-24, 2016 Istanbul, Turkey By Sr. M Doretta Cornell, RDC

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called this first [World Humanitarian Summit](#) to examine the increasing humanitarian crises around the world and, he hopes, to stimulate humanitarian responses to the burgeoning needs of people in conflict situations and environmental disasters and refugees from these.

In the preliminary [Summary](#), *Standing up for Humanity: Committing to Action*, the Secretary-General pointed out the greatest aim and hoped-for outcome of the Summit: recognizing “that humanitarian assistance alone can neither adequately address nor sustainably reduce the needs of over 130 million of the world’s most vulnerable people. A new and coherent approach is required based on addressing root causes, increasing political diplomacy for prevention and conflict resolution, and bringing humanitarian, development and peace-building efforts together.”

In this summary, he listed **five Core Responsibilities of nations**:

1. *Political Leadership to Prevent and End Conflict*, including more emphasis and funding to train personnel for and promote peaceful solutions to conflicts
2. *Uphold the Norms That Safeguard Humanity*, including greater adherence to international humanitarian and human rights laws, developing concrete measures to reduce human casualties in armed conflicts, and taking steps to hold those creating and maintaining the conflicts accountable for their actions.
3. *Leave No One Behind*, including making commitments to develop new approaches to meeting the needs of refugees from and those internally displaced by conflicts and natural disasters.
4. *Change People's Lives: from Delivering Aid to Ending Need*, including ensuring that those in need are at the center of developing solutions, and building and/or strengthening local, regional, and international coping strategies and systems.
5. *Invest in Humanity*, to provide adequate and reliable funding to meet the needs.



The [UN News Centre reports](#) that “in total, the Summit brought together 173 Member States, 55 Heads of State and Governments, some 350 private sector representatives, and over 2000 people from civil society and non-governmental organizations. Together, some 1,500 commitments were made, including:

- The Education Cannot Wait fund to help provide quality education to children and youth in crises.
- A Grand Bargain that will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of investment in emergency response
- The Global Preparedness Partnership to better prepare twenty of the countries that are most at risk of crisis
- The One Billion Coalition for Resilience which aims to mobilize a billion people to build safer and more stable communities worldwide

Despite the large numbers, some crucial G7 nations, except for Angela Merkel of Germany, and including the United States, did not attend. The Secretary-General noted, “They are some of the most generous donors of funding for humanitarian action.” He urged these nations to engage in the work begun at the Summit,” particularly in the search for political solutions.”

Mr. Ban also noted that “divisions between the members of the Security Council have prevented progress in recent years, not only on critical issues of war and peace, but on humanitarian affairs,” and he made “a special appeal to leaders of the nations that are permanent Members of that Council to take important steps at the highest level. Their absence from this meeting does not provide an excuse for inaction.”

For more details of the negotiations – and of successes and failures to reach agreement on key points -- see the UK’s [Guardian report](#). Mr. Ban’s official report will be presented to the General Assembly in September.

One appalling piece of information in the report:

“There are more than 125 million people in need of immediate humanitarian assistance worldwide, according to United Nations figures. That includes refugees, displaced persons, and people who are in need of support due to climate-induced famine. To put that figure in perspective, together, they would create the 11th largest country in the world.”

For pictures from the Summit (many of children) and more information, see [this site](#).

Links to information on related issues: [education for children in refugee or conflict situations](#) and [condition of women and girls in least developed countries](#).



In case you missed them, there are reports on the Commission in both the March and April issues of the [PGJ Newsletter](#). The complete Agreed Conclusions Document may be found [here](#).

Driving the Gender-Responsive Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – Analysis report by **Lakshmi Puri**, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women

by Sr. M. Doretta Cornell, RDC

Ms. Puri’s analysis includes praise for **Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s** efforts to advance the cause of women during his time in office, citing the priority he has given to women’s equality and empowerment agendas, appointed the highest number of women leaders ever to UN positions, and oversaw the creation of UN Women. Ms. Puri quoted Mr. Ban’s saying, "Our new global force has made its mark" and credited him with coining “a new meaning of the term FGM – *Finally Girls Matter!*”

Ms. Puri hailed the **Agreed Conclusions** adopted at the end of the Commission as a “landmark set” of agreements, which “established detailed, progressive, value added and positive commitments and trajectory to effectively implement and monitor the progress of the historic gender equality compact contained in the entire 2030 Agenda in conjunction with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BDPfA).”

All discussions at the Commission, she notes, consistently drew connection between its priority theme of **Women’s Empowerment and the Link to Sustainable Development** and the **2030 Agenda**, which includes the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In fact, Ms. Puri asserts, the work of the Commission clarified and strengthened the “full gender equality compact” at the heart of SDG 5, all six of its targets and three Means of Implements, without mentioning the Goal. She goes on to point out the correlations between the work for women’s equality with other Goals, notably the First SDG, Eradication of Poverty.

Some of the **Concerns and Challenges** Ms. Puri notes are the continued efforts of “fortunately a very small number of states” to raise objections to including “child, early and forced marriages, unpaid care work, feminists and women’s human rights defenders, youth, women’s human rights and forms of the family among others.”

She also points out the refusal by some Member States to “even entertain let alone negotiate on the LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual and Queer) and SOGI (Sexual Orientation and Gender identity) issues that some member states had put forward.” Some of these objectors cited Sharia as the guide for these issues. Another concern is disagreement by some Members, including developed nations, about how implementation will be determined and measured; some states want all authority at the national level, with no prescriptions from the Commission. Only “deft negotiations” produced an outcome document that all Member States would approve.

Finally, Ms. Puri announced that the **sixty first session of CSW** in 2017 “will focus on *Women’s economic empowerment and the changing world of work*.” In preparation for that, work on “mitigation strategies on the reservations and political/cultural/religious aspects of some of the issues surrounding women’s human rights” will need the collaboration of many individuals, groups and Member States.



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS

In this new section of the Newsletter, we will highlight activities by PGJ members that advance the work of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia, Kansas

Neighbor to Neighbor

Serving women and young children



[Neighbor to Neighbor](#) is a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia, Kansas. Located on Main Street in the downtown area, Neighbor to Neighbor was founded by Sisters Pat McLennon, Ramona Medina and Jean Beafort in 2010. The ministry serves the needs of all local women, helping them connect with any services they might need, with other women in the community, and with their own value as women.

Some of the activities include: classes on craft-making, painting, cooking one day a week, yoga, budgeting, coordination with other service agencies, play-time for children, and a monthly story hour with children receiving a copy of the book for that month.

Laundry and showers are available if needed. The coffee pot is always on and a warm noon meal provide a welcome place for women and children to find support and friendship.

Neighbor to Neighbor's [recent newsletter](#) will give you a "taste" of what goes on.

Adrian Dominicans in the Chicago Area

Immigration Project

The Adrian Dominican Sisters in Chicago (Dominican Midwest Mission Chapter, LCWR Region 8) are deeply committed to working with the immigrant community through collaboration with Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants and the Archdiocesan Office of Immigrant Affairs and Immigrant Education. The sisters also participate in Public Witness for Immigration Reform activities. These activities include participating in a Speaker's Forum, court watching and participating in the Friday vigil at the Broadview Detention Center.

On a regular basis, sisters/associates write a reflection on their participation in this work with the immigrant community. The reflections are shared with all the sisters and associates in the Chicago Mission Chapter. The sisters/associates see the purpose of their involvement as an answer to the call to walk with immigrants in their struggle by being:

1. witnesses with immigrants
2. involved in migrant ministry
3. working for Humane Immigration Reform
4. working toward systemic change in the immigration policy in the U. S.

PARTICIPATE IN UN ACTIVITIES



An Invitation to a High-Level Political Forum

The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development is scheduled for July 11-20 at UN Headquarters in NYC.

HLPF is the most inclusive and participatory forum at the United Nations, bringing all States Members of

the United Nations and States members of specialized agencies together. Anyone can participate in HLPF through the [major groups and other stakeholders](#) format.

The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development is United Nations' central platform for the follow-up and review of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals](#), adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015.

Members of PGJ are encouraged to attend part of this meeting. The program can be found at [this link](#). Registration is currently open, until June 10. Unfortunately, the deadline for side events was June 1. However, PGJ members are invited to begin thinking about side events for next year.

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.

DPI/NGO Conference in Korea – May 30 through June 1.

We hope that some members of the Partnership will attend this first DPINGO Conference to be held in Asia. For more information, see the press release. Registration and other information is available through the Conference logo icon at <http://outreach.un.org/ngorelations/>

