

Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation News

Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours



Violence Against Women

November, 2016
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*Deepening our living of the Mission Focus Statement
we call each other to cry out against human trafficking.*

The United Nations General Assembly designated November 25 as the **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women**, as a way to raise public awareness about the many forms of gender violence prevalent in our world today.

In this issue of JPIC News you will read about the astounding statistics on violence against women as well as efforts to address this violation of human rights that the UN hopes to achieve through Sustainable Development Goal #5. As Sisters of Bon Secours we are committed to addressing violence against women especially as we address human trafficking – a form of violence for which 80% of its victims are women and girls.

Some Types of Violence Against Women

- Dating Violence
- Domestic Violence
- Dowry Murder
- Femicide
- Genital Mutilation
- Honor Killings
- Human Trafficking
- Sexual Assault
- Sexual Violence in War

November
JPIC Days of Remembrance

November 3
St. Martin dePorres
Patron of Race Relations

November 13
St. Frances Xavier Cabrini
Patron of Immigrants

November 19
World Toilet Day

2.4 billion people do not have adequate sanitation. Women and girls risk rape and abuse because they have no toilet that offers privacy.

Learn more:
<http://www.un.org/en/events/toiletday/>

November 25
International Day for
Elimination of Violence
Against Women

November 29
International Day of Solidarity
with the Palestinian People

Fast Facts

- Up to 7 in 10 women around the world experience violence at some point in their lifetime.
- 603 million women live in countries where domestic violence is not yet considered a crime.
- Over 60 million girls worldwide are child brides, married before the age of 18.
- Women aged 15-44 are more at risk from rape and domestic violence than from cancer, car accidents, war and malaria, according to World Bank data.
- Approximately 130 million girls and women in the world have experienced female genital mutilation with more than 3 million girls in Africa annually at risk of this practice.

Source: UN Women

Sustainable Development Goal #5 Achieve Gender Equality



Targets

- End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.
- Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.
- Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

Learn more...

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/women-and-the-sdgs/sdg-5-gender-equality#sthash.rykvWaqF.dpuf>

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Preventing Trafficking and Exploitation – The Nordic Model

An effective approach to preventing trafficking and exploitation is the 'Nordic model', a human rights and gender equality based approach also known as the 'Swedish model'. This set of laws and policies penalizes the demand for commercial sex while decriminalizing individuals in prostitution and providing them with support services, including help for those who wish to exit prostitution. Based on an approach first adopted in Sweden in 1999, the Nordic model has two main goals:

- Curb the demand for commercial sex that fuels sex trafficking
- Promote equality between men and women.

Several countries have followed Sweden's example, and many more are considering this approach:

- Norway and Iceland passed similar laws in 2008 and 2009, respectively
- In 2014, Northern Ireland became the first country in the UK to pass similar laws
- Canada adopted a law in the spirit of the Nordic model in November 2014
- In early 2014, the parliaments of the European Union and the Council of Europe both adopted nonbinding resolutions recommending member states to consider the Nordic Model.
- In 2016, France voted to criminalize the purchase of sex while decriminalizing the selling of sex and offering support services to those in prostitution.

Source: Equality Now



Ending Violence Against Women

- Speak out against violence against women, listen to women and believe them.
- Condemn violence against women as the major Human Rights scandal of our times.
- Advocate to change laws that discriminate against women.
- Establish effective laws and policies to protect women and punish perpetrators.
- Hold states accountable to their existing obligations under international law to prevent, investigate, punish and redress violence against women.
- Challenge religious, social and cultural attitudes and stereotypes which diminish women's humanity and lead to the abuse of their Human Rights.
- Promote women's equal access to political power, decision-making and resources.
- Support women to organize themselves to stop the violence.
- Promote and run education and awareness training programs in schools and communities.

Source: Amnesty International

What We Can Do Together

- Learn about the efforts of Catholic Sisters to address human trafficking globally. <http://www.talithakum.info/>
- UN Women, in partnership with the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) has developed a global non-formal education curriculum to engage young people in efforts to prevent and end violence against girls and women. See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/prevention#WAGGGS>

Living Out Our Chapter Call

Crying Out Against Human Trafficking Ending Violence

This month we highlight the ways Bon Secours USA are living out our Chapter Call.

- We are engaging in a year of formation in **nonviolence** through a monthly publication called Just Peace. We have also recommended two books on nonviolence for Congregational reading:
 - *The Nonviolent Life* by John Dear
 - *Healing the Heart of Democracy* by Parker Palmer.
- Bon Secours USA as well as individual sisters signed on to LCWR's statement on **Civil Discourse**. This statement was sent to all presidential and vice-presidential candidates.
- Bon Secours USA endorsed the *Appeal to the Catholic Church to Re-Commit to the Centrality of Nonviolence*.
- Through our participation in the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility we are addressing **gun violence**.
- Each month Sr. Chris Webb sends out information on **human trafficking** from US Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking as well as other sources.
- Advocacy efforts included letters and phone calls to Congress urging support of Business Supply Chain Transparency on **Trafficking & Slavery Act of 2015**.
- Sr. Anne Marie Mack represented Bon Secours Richmond at a press conference and spoke at an event sponsored by Inclusive Communities on **violence** and Islamophobia. She also attended a seminar on **Human Trafficking** in Virginia given by St. Mary's Hospital forensic nurses and Law enforcement.
- In August we launched the newly updated Bon Secours USA website that now includes a JPIC section. Even though it is only in English, take a look! www.jpic.bonsecours.us

International Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Committee

- Sr. Teresa Margot Benites Montero, CBS (Peru)
- Sr. Fran Gorsuch, CBS (USA)
- Sr. Mary Beth Hamm, SSJ Co-chair
- Sr. Mary Leamy, CBS (Ireland)
- Sr. Anne Marie Mack, CBS (USA) Chair
- Sr. Noelia Lara Núñez, CBS (Peru)
- Sr. Marguerite Provost, CBS (France)
- Sr. Alice Talone, CBS (USA)
- Sr. Katherine Tierney, CBS (Ireland)
- Sr. Yolanda Morales Valiente, CBS (Peru)
- Sr. Chris Webb, CBS (USA)