



International



News from the UN & Around the World

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A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Welcome to our 2019 edition of News from the UN and Around the World with UNANIMA International. We want to take this opportunity to wish you many blessings as we enter this new time in our world with its gifts and challenges.

A significant focus for UNANIMA International during the coming year will be on Family Homelessness /Displacement, with an emphasis on Trauma. UNANIMA International in association with Sophia Housing Ireland, SMES Europe, NYU New York, and Trinity College Dublin are launching a Research Project on the Global Phenomenon of Family Homelessness especially women and children. Family Homelessness once viewed as episodic and situational, has become chronic. The alarming trend of Family Homelessness constitutes a global human rights crisis, encompassing multiple cross cutting issues addressed in the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda. Women and children who experience homelessness / displacement are often overlooked by politicians, service providers and policy-makers due to their lack of political voice, financial and social capital and their chronic social exclusion. The Research Project will be both a quantitative as well as a qualitative study, with case studies from various regions and include participant's unique experiences.

If anyone would like to contribute to the study, please contact us.

HIGHLIGHTS

1. Family Homelessness Project
2. Whats Happening at the UN
3. Meet Our Board and New Staff
4. Intern Update
5. Regional News
6. Grassroots Stories
7. Resource Section

Jean

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FAMILY HOMELESSNESS PROJECT

Meeting with NYU



#MakingaHome4Everyone



UNANIMA International's New Project!

As mentioned by Executive Director Jean Quinn, UNANIMA International will be leading a significant research project on the topic of Family Homelessness in the coming year. Family Homelessness is a growing social problem affecting families around the world. Understood and manifesting itself in a diverse economic, social, cultural and even linguistic context globally, Family Homelessness is currently documented poorly at the global level. By exploring the issue through the holistic approach detailed above the completion of this research has a vast range of possibilities, including but not limited to contributing to the documentation of such an important and emerging issue.

By studying the root causes, the experience and the outcomes through a range of facets, this project has the potential to provide detailed and informative outcomes appropriate at the regional and global level. Exploring both good practices and issues this research project could play an important role in documenting the trauma experienced by families who experience homelessness and recommending the core elements of what would constitute a service that would support families by using a trauma informed model. The outcome of this research could help also inform service providers and policy makers such as national government departments to set standards and provide the resources for creating a trauma informed model and an effective service for homeless families. It is hoped that such outcomes will contribute to a paradigm shift in how we perceive the problems of poverty and homelessness that is so badly needed and promote a dialogue where homelessness is finally viewed as a human rights issue.

We aim to conduct small sample size population case studies in Europe, USA / Canada, Philippines/ India, Australia and Kenya. We hope to hear the voices and tell the stories of those who are often not heard. Going forward we will keep you up to date with the project via UNANIMA International's News for the UN and Around the World and all of our social media outlets. Keep an eye out for Family Homelessness themed Thursdays!

If you have specific questions or would like to contribute to the study, please contact us via the email info@unanima-international.org.



WHATS HAPPENING AT THE UN



NGO Committees Update

Working Group to End Homelessness

Among many ongoing activities the Working Group to End Homelessness has co-sponsored a side event at the 57th Commission for Social Development. The event examined homelessness as a direct consequence of social inequalities and inefficient governmental policies through the experience of advocates, policy makers and people experiencing street homelessness.



NGO Committee on Social Development

Through out January and February this committee has been in full swing in preparations for the Commission on Social Development. As well as facilitating the Civil Society Forum, this committee is co-sponsoring a number of side events. Stay up to date via the website <https://ngosocdev.org> and Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/NGOCsocD/>



NGO Committee on Migration

2019 welcomes a new direction for this committee. While keeping with the same mission and key focus areas, after the adoption of the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) in December 2018, this committee turns its focus to the implementation and global response to the GCM. Stay up to date via the website <https://ngo-migration.org> Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ngomigrationcommittee/>



Working Group to End Homelessness Side-event



Celebrating the First International Day of Education

On the 24th of January 2019 the United Nations and the World celebrated the first International Day of Education, in celebration of the role of education for peace and development. The day was marked with various events globally, including one at UNHQ in New York.

Education is a human right, a public good and a public responsibility. It is fundamental in ensuring every individual has the knowledge and skills needed to access opportunities to participate fully in society and contribute to sustainable development. By proclaiming the International Day of Education, UN member states recognized the importance of working to ensure inclusive, accessible and equitable quality education at all levels. While the right to education is enshrined in various UN Declarations, Agendas and Conventions, among the most notable; Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, there is still a long way to go. Did you celebrate the first International Day of Education? If you did, we would love to hear about it!



CSocD57 Civil Society Orientation

Teresa Blumenstein's Impressions of the GCM: A Limited yet Forward-Facing Document for a Limited yet Forward-Facing World



The final text of the Global Compact for Migration is built upon a clear set of 23 objectives and political (but not legal) commitment to the pursuit of those objectives. The NGO Committee on Migration put together a short guide to these objectives, which is available online in English (<https://bit.ly/2O5xY3X>), Spanish (<https://bit.ly/2Uujspm>), and French (<https://bit.ly/2G2GqRp>).

A unique feature of this final text was the presentation beneath each objective of a “menu” of suggested policies and practices that would support the achievement of that objective. Essentially, these menus were collections of the most progressive, human rights-based policies that governments and civil society (non-government groups like UI) had presented throughout the two-year process of developing the GCM. Though stripped of some of the stronger and more specific demands for swift action, the voice of civil society was evident in these sections, particularly with regard to pursuing administrative alternatives to the detention of migrants; offering protections to migrants displaced by environmental factors; and providing certain types of services to foster the economic, political, and social inclusion of migrants in their destination communities. While the global, political climate would never have allowed governments to commit to a lengthy list of progressive practices such as these, including them as suggested policy options served as a clever compromise between the more migrant-welcoming countries and those whose ideals or circumstances lead them to favor stricter border policies or fewer supports and services for migrants. This structure allowed such practices to be internationally agreed upon as positive, useful steps toward safer and more orderly migration even though the world is not ready to unanimously agree to deliver on them in their own countries on a specified timeline.

In UN circles, this sort of exercise of naming ideals, agreeing on politically “correct” language to discuss an issue or population, or reaching agreement on the validity of certain policies as contributors to progress is an important rhetorical foundation for large-scale social and policy changes. In short, the GCM is not a tightly binding agreement that will swiftly deliver the world we desperately want. It may, however, be the best possible first step in that direction given the state of the



world in which we live. In the same way a doctor might tell you the best physical exercise for maintaining good health is the exercise you will personally have the motivation to do regularly, the best text for a global agreement is the one to which most of the globe can actually agree at the time it is proposed. In my view, the GCM grew to be nearly the best possible version of a document with such lofty, moral, and just aspirations being voted on in an era of materially overprivileged and morally undereducated leadership.

To read more on migration, the GCM and Teresa’s experience visit:
https://gallery.mailchimp.com/8bb6ca603b91a37b4012a341d/files/24024c84-54cc-4f85-a45f-78c1e12b2ddd/UI_article_on_GFMD_GCM_adoption_conference_Blumenstein_27_Jan_2019.pdf

A GLANCE AT THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION (GCM)

<p>THE GCM IS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An inter-governmentally negotiated agreement prepared under the auspices of the United Nations and organized under 23 Objectives. • Aimed at improving cooperation on international migration. • Not legally binding, but consistent with human rights treaties and fully respectful of States' sovereignty. • Covers all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive way. • Rooted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and aimed at maximizing the potential of migration to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). • Negotiated between 2016 and 2018 to be formally adopted by the Intergovernmental Conference in December 2018. <p>IMPLEMENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be implemented by Governments in cooperation and partnership with migrants and all relevant stakeholders. <p>FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An International Migration Review Forum shall take place every four years beginning in 2022 with the participation of all relevant stakeholders. • The Forum will discuss and share progress on implementation at all levels and will approve an inter-governmentally agreed Progress Declaration. <p style="font-size: small;">Click here to download GCM Final Draft</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MEMBER STATES' COMMITMENTS</p> <p style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 2px;">PROTECT THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL MIGRANTS BY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective 6: Reviewing employment recruitment mechanisms to guarantee that they are fair and ethical • Objective 13: Using immigration detention only as a measure of last resort, and working towards alternatives • Objective 15: Providing access to basic services for migrants regardless of their migration status • Objective 16: Empowering migrants to become active members of society and promoting mutual respect and understanding between migrants and receiving communities • Objective 17: Eliminating all forms of discrimination and related intolerance against all migrants • Objective 18: Investing in the identification and development of migrants' skills and qualifications. <p style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 2px;">REDUCE FORCED MIGRATION BY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective 2: Minimizing factors that compel people to leave their country of origin • Objective 5: Enhancing pathways for regular migration • Objective 19: Creating conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development • Objective 20: Improving the remittance transfer process and migrants' access to financial institutions. • Objective 22: Making social security entitlements and earned benefits portable • Objective 23: Strengthening international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration <p style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 2px;">IMPROVE MIGRATION MANAGEMENT BY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective 1: Collecting and utilizing accurate and disaggregated data • Objective 3: Providing accurate and timely information at all stages of migration • Objective 4: Ensuring that all migrants, including stateless people, have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation • Objective 7: Reducing vulnerabilities of migrants in countries of origin, transit and destination • Objective 12: Increasing legal certainty and predictability of migration procedures • Objective 14: Strengthening consular protection and assistance <p style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 2px;">ENHANCE THE SAFETY OF MIGRATION BY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective 8: Saving lives and preventing migrants' deaths and injuries • Objective 9: Intensifying joint efforts to prevent and counter smuggling of migrants • Objective 10: Acting to prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons • Objective 11: Promoting bilateral and regional cooperation to manage national borders in a coordinated manner • Objective 21: Facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration <p style="font-size: x-small; text-align: center;">NGO Committee on Migration: www.ngo-migration.org</p>
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57th Commission on Social Development (CSocD57)

The fifty-seventh session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD57) will take place from 11 to 21 February 2019, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. With 46 members this Commission remains the advisory body responsible for the social development pillar of global development at the UN. In 2019 the priority theme is “Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies”.

As well as attending high-level panels, networking and side events, UNANIMA International Delegates will take part in the Civil Society Forum. This is a full

day event that aims to bring civil society members attending the commission together from around the globe. It is an opportunity to discuss the commission, network and share success and challenges social development related issues and programs globally. You can watch the Civil Society Forum and The Commission’s Official Meetings via UN Web TV at [http://webtv.un.org\(search Civil Society Forum CSocD57 or CSocD57\)](http://webtv.un.org(search%20Civil%20Society%20Forum%20CSocD57%20or%20CSocD57)). As part of the Working Group on Ending Homelessness UNANIMA International is also involved in a side event Homelessness: A Prominent Sign of Social Inequalities. This event will be co-sponsored by the Irish Mission. Executive Director, Jean Quinn, will also be moderating an event titled "Inequalities and Challenges of Social Inclusion: Housing and evictions, Extractive Industries and land grabbing", organized by Habitat International Coalition.

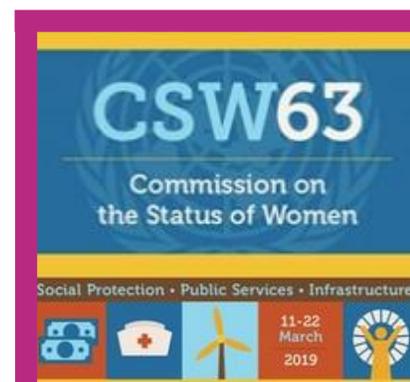
To find out more about the commission visit: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/united-nations-commission-for-social-development-csod-social-policy-and-development-division/csod57.html>

What to Expect from the 63rd Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63)

In 2019, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) marks its 63rd year. To be chaired by H.E. Ms. Geraldine Byrne Nason (Ireland), this Commission remains the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of Women and Girls. This year the Priority theme will be “Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls”. Taking place at UNHQ from the 11th to the 22nd of March thousands of Women, Girls and Pro-Feminine Advocates will descend on New York at one of the organization’s largest commissions.

UNANIMA International is excited to have a number of women from our various communities representing us at the Commission. Ms. Hanane Hakkou, Ms. Kim Piche, Sr. Carroll Ann Kemp, Sr. Janice Belanger, Sr. Philipa Chakabreyo, Sr. Maryan Chinyere Emealo, Sr. Gloria Ozulouoke and a number of our board members also. They will be travelling from various regions around the world including North America and Africa. This diverse group of women will surely bring an array of experience with them to CSW as well as take back valuable learnings to their congregations and communities. In conjunction with high-level panels and the official agenda the Commission’s activities attendees are invited to take part in a vast number of side and parallel events in and around the United Nations. This year UNANIMA International will be co-sponsoring a side event named “Addressing Vulnerability: Collaborative Approaches to Trafficking Prevention through a Human Rights Lens”. While not everyone is able to attend the commission in person everyone is welcomed to watch via UN TV. This year both official events and selected side events will be available to view.

Please stay up to day with UNANIMA International’s social medias for updates on the commission, its activities and our delegation over the coming weeks. If you would like to find out more about the commission please visit: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw63-2019>





Top: Back Row -Anne McCabe, Cathy Sheehan, Pereka Nyirenda, Suzette Clarke, Ces Martin, Carol Regan, Barbara Jean Head, Fran Gorsuch, Josee Therrien, Ellen Sinclair, Maureen Foltz, Margaret Scott, Judy Culey, Susan Seeby, Karol Brewer, Front Row- Mary Akinwale, Jean Quinn, Lucille Goulet, Hortense Demia- Mbailaou, Janet Petersworth, Barbara Spears and Margaret Fyfe
 Bottom left: Molly Gerke, Executive Assistant. Bottom Middle Jean Quinn DW, Executive Director. Bottom Right: Stephanie Bozino-Routier, Research Assistant

MEET OUR NEW STAFF MEMBER

In January UNANIMA welcomed Stéphanie Bozino-Routier to our team as the new Research Assistant. Stephanie is a French national now holding dual citizenship (French and American) and has been living in New York for 20 years. She holds a master's degree in International Relations from the City University of New York. Her background includes work at the United Nations under numerous capacities. She has worked in the Department of General Assembly and Conference Management, the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and Field Support and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Her last positions were Associate Political Affairs Officer in DPKO and Human Rights Officer in OHCHR. She described herself as a humanitarian. She lives with her 13-year-old daughter Kimaya. From March 7th to 9th UNANIMA International's Board will meet for the first time in 2019. The Board Meeting will take place in New York City over a three day period, just before the 63rd Commission on the Status of Women begins. Among the Board Members attending are some new faces to the UNANIMA Board. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new Board Members. Unfortunately, this also means bidding farewell to a number of a valued Board Members. We would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you. Your time and input to UNANIMA International, it has truly been valued by the whole UNANIMA International Community.



A New Year message from
 UN Secretary-General
 António Guterres-
<https://www.un.org/sg/en>

INTERN UPDATE

Sr Judy Padasas

Sister Judy Padasas is one of UNANIMA International's past Catherine Ferguson Scholars. After completing her internship, she returned to her country and community with new knowledge, skills and international contacts. Like many of our past interns Sister Judy has certainly put this to good use. The Vedruna sisters in the Philippines are doing some much-needed outreach to the poorer sectors where youth and children are among the most vulnerable. In such communities they are easily preyed by human traffickers. As part of the temporary vows program, the sisters of the Asian provinces accompany street children and do preventive outreach to the vulnerable children who can easily be tricked into human trafficking, dangers through promises of jobs or education. Sr Judy has also facilitated workshops at local high schools. She stresses the fact that it is important to educate the boys as well as the girls. Pictured are some of the sisters from India, missioned in the Philippines, giving snacks to the street children and various aspects of the program. It is not just the younger children that are benefiting from this program, mothers have also joined in on the learning. The sisters have suggested reading https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_trafficking_in_the_Philippines if you are interested in finding out more .



Important Upcoming Dates

11th-22nd Feb	CSocD57
20th Feb	World day of Social Justice
1st March	Zero Discrimination Day
7th-9th March	UNANIMA International Board Meeting
8th March	International Women's Day
11th-22nd March	CSW63
20th March	International Day of Happiness
21st March	World Poverty Day
22nd March	World Water Day
7th April	World Health Day
8th-9th April	ECOSOC Youth Forum
22nd April-3rd May	United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Something to reflect on...



The allegorical figure of "Hope" suits these heartbreaking times. There is only one string left to the lyre. She leans her head down to hear its faint music. According to its artist George Frederic Watts "hope need not mean expectancy. It suggests here rather the music which can come from the remaining cord".

Ireland's 2019/2020 Champions Programme

Like many Nations Ireland is full of ambition when it comes to fully implementing the SDGs by 2030. They are committed to their achievement internationally and recognise their role as a responsible global citizen. This will be extremely challenging but is achievable if everyone across society gets involved. Hence, they are ramping up efforts at home to ensure no one is left behind. Many organisations and individuals across Ireland are already responding directly to implementing and raising awareness of the SDGs, and many more are active in related areas such as poverty eradication, climate action, improving gender equality, environmental protection, reducing inequalities and sustainable economic growth. Having recognised this the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment has initiated a programme that is currently seeking expressions of interest from organisations to take part in Ireland's first SDG Champions programme.

The aim of the programme is to increase awareness of the SDGs and to demonstrate, through the example of the 'Champions' engagement with sustainable development, that everyone in society can make a contribution to achieving the 17 Goals. As many UNANIMA International members and associates are currently doing such work across the country we encourage you to express your interest in the programme.

If you and your organisation are interested in finding out more about the Champions Programme please visit <https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/environment/topics/sustainable-development/sustainable-development-goals/stakeholder-forum--/2019-forums/Pages/Champions-Programme.aspx> if you are interested in applying for the role of SDG Champion, organisations are asked to submit a short application to SDGsIRL@DCCAE.gov.ie before close of business on Friday 28th February 2019.

Recognizing Advocacy Champions

Advocacy champions come in all shape and sizes. They can advocate locally or globally on a variety of topics, what they all have in common is they're trying to make the world a better place. UNANIMA International has a strong history of celebrating such people through the annual Woman of Courage award, UNANAIMA International various publications and interventions.

Autumn Peltier a 13-year-old Indigenous Canadian who is truly making her mark as a young woman of courage in relation to Water advocacy. With a number of years of advocacy already behind her she has done things many of us only aspire to. Following in the footsteps of her aunt, Josephine Mandamin, who received the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Excellence in Conservation in 2016, this young Woman has been advocating for clean drinking water since she was about 8 years old. She has met the Prime Minister, spoken at the United Nations, attended the Assembly of First Nations Annual General Assembly and marched on the highway in the name of water protection, to name but a few issues. Considered by many "a water protector" Peltier is now a nominee for the International Children's Peace Prize. What a Young Woman of Courage!

Do you know any young Advocacy Champions? Tell us about them!



MAKE IRELAND
SUSTAINABLE
FOR ALL

Autumn Peltier



Photo Credit Perry Bellegarde/ Facebook

GRASS ROOTS

An update from the Vedruna Sisters in India

The Vedruna sisters in India have had a very busy start to their year! In early January the Indian Sisters collaborated with the SPY department and Health departments to hold a programme for women and girls who are boarding at a local school. With 96 attendees this day focused on Ecology and Mother Earth.

On the 14th of January the Sisters took part in Utarayan Feast Celebrations. This is an annual celebration that marks the end of the winter solstice and the beginning of longer days. A big part of this celebration is kite flying. Unfortunately, many birds get entangled with the thread, even people get hurt. As well as taking part in the traditional festivities an oath ceremony and rally was organised by the Unai Vedruna school children to bring awareness to the local community about saving and protecting bird populations.

Such programs as those mentioned above are common for the Vedruna Sisters. Sister Reetha Abraham says these programs are well attended and run on a weekly basis. They are a great place to learn and teach many things.



RESOURCE SECTION

Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform

This is a link to the Sustainable Knowledge Platform where you can find lots of information on the SDGs. Be sure to check out the Global Report!

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/globalsdreport/2019>



IGHHub



Think link includes a number of great resources related to Homelessness including A Global Framework For Understanding and Measuring Homelessness <https://www.ighhub.org/about-us/about-ighub>



UN Web TV

Here you can watch events happening in UN buildings around the globe live from wherever you are! This includes major Events, Commissions, Media briefings and much more! <http://webtv.un.org>

