

News from UNANIMA International

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Contact Us

unanima-international.org

+1 (646) 410-2612

info@unanima-international.org



Executive Director's Reflection

Dear Friends,

Greetings from all in the office in New York, as we prepare for an Easter/Spring break, which gives us time to step back and reflect on our world that is now in chaos. We ask ourselves:

where do we find hope in these difficult times? ? Is there any hope as we look around us to a hurting world, especially as we currently focus on Ukraine? Where do we put our hope at this moment in time? Here at the United Nations, we keep putting our hope in the 17 Sustainable Development Goals—especially in relation to poverty, health, education, housing and homelessness, partnerships, and their successful outcomes as we move towards 2030.

The dictionary defines hope as: a feeling of expectation and a desire for something particular to happen. This defines hope as something that **might** happen. A biblical definition of hope is a **confident assurance** that something good **will** happen. It doesn't just desire it to happen. It expects with confidence that it **will** happen. And so, during the chaos and wars in many countries, the pandemic which still surrounds us with death, as millions are still left without vaccines, people in poverty, homelessness and displacement, people are longing for hope:

- **Hope for love instead of hate and war**
- **Hope for compassion and generosity**

- **Hope for a cleaner planet**
- **Hope for children to see life and not death**

Our call at this moment is to be still in reflection. To be still and sit quietly with Wisdom during the fear and uncertainty that surrounds us, and to pray for a hope filled world. We continue to be thankful and hopeful as we continue our journey with our UNANIMA International extended family.

With Easter blessings and hope,
Jean

A Prayer for Ukraine

Loving God,
We pray for the people of Ukraine,
for all those suffering or afraid,
that you will be close to them and protect them.
We pray for world leaders,
for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.
We pray for the world
that in this moment of crisis,
we may reach out in solidarity
to our brothers and sisters in need.
May we walk in your ways
so that peace and justice
become a reality for the people of Ukraine
and for all the world. Amen.



Молитва за Україну

Люблячий Боже, молимося за народ України, за всіх тих, хто страждає чи боїться, щоб ти був поруч з ними і захищав їх.
Ми молимося за світових лідерів, про співчуття, силу та мудрість, щоб керувати їхнім вибором.
Ми молимося за світ, щоб у цей кризовий момент ми могли простягнути руку солідарності з нашими братами і сестрами, які потребують.
Нехай ми йдемо вашими шляхами, щоб мир і справедливість стали реальністю для народу України та для всього світу.
Амінь.

Upcoming Dates

- April 22 - International Mother Earth Day
- April 26 to May 6 - UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)
- May 3 - World Press Freedom Day
- May 15 - International Day of Families
- May 16 - International Day of Living Together in Peace
- May 17 to May 20 - International Migration Review Forum (IMRF)
- May 21 - World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
- June 1 - Global Day of Parents
- June 4 - International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
- June 5 - World Environment Day

May you have...

The gladness of Easter

Which is **Hope**

The promise of Easter

Which is **Peace**

The spirit of Easter

Which is **Love**

Happy Easter!



What's Happening At the UN?



The Commission for Social Development (CSocD60)

The 60th Commission for Social Development (CSocD60) took place from February 7-16, 2022. The Commission is the United Nations' key body in charge of issues focusing on social development and protections. The 2022 priority theme was "Inclusive and resilient recovery from COVID-19 for sustainable livelihoods, well-being and dignity for all: eradicating poverty and hunger in all its forms and dimensions to achieve the 2030 Agenda."

UNANIMA International participated in the Commission by submitting a written joint statement with the International Presentation Association, reading an oral statement, and participating in the Working Group to End Homelessness event: "End Homelessness, Hunger, and Poverty to Achieve Inclusive Recovery and Dignity for All Through the SDGs." UNANIMA International's Executive Director, Jean Quinn, was a speaker at this event. Click [here](#) to view the recording.



UNANIMA International's Executive Assistant, Lara Hicks, delivered an oral statement on behalf of the organization that was featured on UN Web TV during the February 15th morning session of CSocD60. In the statement, Lara highlighted the situations of "people living on the margins" and offered recommendations. She also shared that among those most vulnerable are homeless women and girls, who often endure traumatic events like poverty, job loss, hunger, and violence. You can view the oral statement [here](#).



NGO WORKING GROUP TO END HOMELESSNESS



The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66) and the NGO CSW Virtual Exhibit Booth



The 66th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66) took place from March 14 - 25. CSW is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. This year's priority theme was *"Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes."*

UNANIMA International engaged in the Commission in numerous ways. Via the NGO CSW Virtual Exhibit Booth platform, UNANIMA International shared "Words of Wisdom" video clips, photography from Sophia Housing, information on different CSW66 Parallel Events, and various resources. Although the Commission has ended, the Exhibit Booth page is still live. You can visit the page at this [link](#).

UNANIMA International hosted two CSW66 Parallel Events and participated in another with the Working Group to End Homelessness. You can find more information below on each of these events:

Climate Change: Multiple Risks for Homeless Women and Girls

This event, hosted by the Working Group to End Homelessness, looked at the role climate change plays in uprooting and affecting the lives of homeless people—especially women and girls. Panelists focused on the intersections of climate change, homelessness, and different issues like menstruation, health, violence, and housing access. They also proposed policies and programs to strengthen the resilience and support homeless women and girls need during climate crises. This event was moderated by UNANIMA International's Executive Director, Jean Quinn, DW. You can view the recording of the event [here](#).



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Positive Change for Homeless Women Through Creativity (with Arts & Homelessness International)

This CSW66 parallel event was presented in collaboration with Arts & Homelessness International, an NGO in London with a mission to enable homeless people to heal and thrive—not just survive—through the arts. The event featured presentations from visual artists, writers, activists and a policy maker as speakers, each with unique, creative gifts to offer. Below you can find an art piece from a project led by one of the artists, Sreejata Roy.



This event and others focusing on women and children are important. Leading research has indicated that crises like the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change disproportionately affect women/girls, leading to greater rates of poverty, violence, homelessness, and displacement. Many of the women/girls in these situations are forced to take on precarious work and insecure housing to care for themselves and their families. The result is that women and girls often experience and endure complex traumas in isolation that are invisible to policymakers and social protections. However, community-oriented solutions that center on restorative justice, healing, human dignity, and self-expression have been linked to positive outcomes for homeless women and girls. One of these community-building solutions can be found through artistic expression. This event looked to celebrate homeless women/girls' resilience and artistic expression. Through the exchange of art, testimonies of homelessness, and the power of creative solutions to socio economic problems affecting women/girls, attendees left with a deep sense of hope and a new perspective of female homelessness.

Interested in watching this event? Check it out [here](#).



Effective Pathways for Advocacy: Empowering Women/Girls on Issues of Climate Displacement and Homelessness

UNANIMA International hosted this event which featured five panelists—each focusing on different elements of advocacy in line with the CSW66 priority theme. The goal of the event was to identify, explore, and address concrete ways for civil society, governments, communities, and Member States to be more inclusive of women and girls in their climate and homelessness/displacement advocacy efforts. Recognizing that approaches to women/girls' advocacy are not "one-size-fits-all," the event comprised panelists with unique experiences and successes related to inclusive advocacy. The dialogue gave an opportunity for panelists to discuss issues affecting women/girls related to climate displacement, good practices to achieve empowerment and gender equality in advocacy spaces, and to hear from those with lived experiences.



The poster features the UNANIMA International logo at the top left and 'NGO CSW66 Exhibit Booth Event' at the top right. The title is prominently displayed in blue and white text. Below the title, the date and time are listed: 'Thursday, March 24, 2022 2:00pm EST'. A paragraph of text describes the event's focus on identifying concrete ways for civil society, governments, and Member States to be more inclusive of women and girls. To the right of the text is a stylized globe. Below the globe is a 'Speakers:' section with a list of five participants and their roles. At the bottom right is a blue button that says 'Register HERE'.

Speakers:

- Moderator - **Angela Reed**, Head of Global Action - Mercy International
- **Larvon Morris-Grant**, Director of Community Engagement - National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
- **Sadiqa Reynolds**, CEO - Louisville Urban League
- **Vaine Wichman**, President - The Cook Islands National Council of Women
- **Teresa Blumenstein**, New York Coordinator - Justice Coalition of Religious (JCOR)
- **Lara Hicks**, Executive Assistant/Assistant UN Representative - UNANIMA International



Lara Hicks, UNANIMA International's Executive Assistant/Assistant UN Representative, participated as a panelist and spoke to how UNANIMA International uses research and the recent UN resolution on homelessness as tools for more inclusive advocacy.

Interested in watching the event? Check it out [here](#).

NGO Committee Updates

Committee on Migration

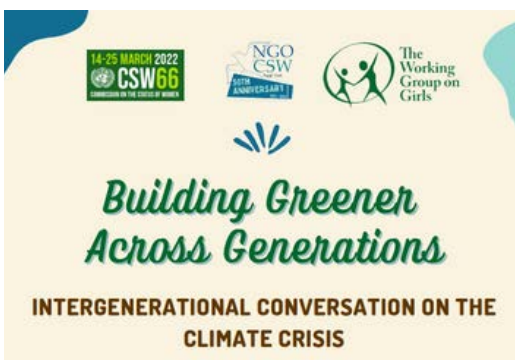
The NGO Committee on Migration continues to meet regularly in preparation for the upcoming International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), which will take place at the UN from May 17- 20. For the May monthly meeting, the Children in Migration Subcommittee (of which UNANIMA International is a part of) will be putting together a program for all committee members featuring various speakers and presentations. Additionally, committee members continue to participate in Mission Visits with UN Member States, advocating for inclusive and equitable implementation of the Global Compact on Migration.



Working Group on Girls



The Working Group on Girls conducted three forms of advocacy for CSW66 in March. These initiatives included "Girls' Caucus," which is an annual discussion hosted by WGG to engage girls on the topics of CSW66. The second initiative was "Girls' Statement Writing," which brought girls together to write a statement for CSW66 that was read by one of the girls at the UN for the Commission. The last project was a Conversation Circle in partnership with NGO CSW—an NGO group that focuses on all things CSW for civil society organizations—for CSW66. UNANIMA International's Executive Assistant, Lara Hicks, was involved in the preparations for the "Girls' Statement Writing" session for the Working Group on Girls. To view the final recorded reading of the girls' statement, visit this [link](#). The statement is read 1:42:38 into the session on UN Web TV. You can also read the written statement in its entirety, [here](#).





Women & Children



Homelessness/Displacement



Migrants & Refugees



Climate

Grassroots Stories:

A Mother and Daughter's Dream - CBS



This grassroots story comes from Sr. Rosa Elena Escobar, CBS about a mother and a daughter:

Flor is a 63-year-old widow who has a 26-year-old daughter named Karina with down syndrome associated with motor disability. She is highly dependent on her mother and cannot walk unaided. Flor was left a widow very young and so she had to raise her daughter Karina all by herself.

Flor does not have a formal job. She tends a small store to earn her living. They live in a settlement called Virgen del Socorro in the district of La Esperanza, Trujillo, Peru. Her single space area was made of mats and she turned it into a shop. The bathroom (latrine) was 20 meters from the room she occupied.

As her daughter grew older, the situation became more complicated. Karina cannot walk and Flor had to move her around in a wheelchair. Flor was determined to improve her and Karina's future; she began to work more, and raised animals to sell with the goal of building an additional room and a bathroom with a shower for her and her daughter.

Flor shared her dream with the Sisters of Bon Secours in Trujillo, Peru, and they contributed to her savings. As a result, the Sisters of Bon Secours managed to build Flor and Karina their room and bathroom. Sr. Rosa reports that their joy is immense, and she is grateful to have contributed even a "grain of sand" to making their dreams come true.



Before

After



Migrant Children in Jerusalem - SDS

One of the most dramatic needs of the migrant population in Israel is for safe, healthy and dignified life in a strange land. Once a week I assist children from the St. Rachel Center in Jerusalem. Since the single parents go to work by 7:30am, for long hours to make their ends meet, the center provides care and protection for babies from three months onwards. Other students come to the center after their school. During afternoons, the center prepares a holistic schedule to assist most of the families' needs. As soon as children arrive from school, they have their lunch at the center and continue doing their homework. There are some volunteers from other countries, mainly from Italy, Germany and France, to help the children with their afternoon activities. The local volunteers



also help them in completing their assignments since their parents do not know sufficient Hebrew to assist their children. As I noticed that children face ample difficulties and have unexpressed behavior problems, I assist them through counseling, art, and play therapies. These children belong to a slice of the population that is at high-risk, and part of very complex social and identity issues. The aim is to offer children a home with a healthy atmosphere and care. Priority is given to the education and accompaniment of the schooling process, while caring for the migrant children's physical, mental and spiritual growth.

- Sr. Suneela Polimetla, SDS

A Story of Hope and Entrepreneurship

Sr. Lavina D'Souza, a Canossian sister from Mumbai, India, shared this grassroots story of Ms. Swati with UNANIMA International.

Ms. Swati, a 30 year old married woman residing in Mumbai, was initially a homemaker, but at present she is a budding entrepreneur too. She lives in a nuclear family with two children while her husband works for an enterprising company. She shared: "I always had a keen desire to do my graduation and also to learn new things but for the sake of my family I compromised my choices."

Life was a smooth sail for her until the outbreak of the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic when her husband lost his job. Swati shared: "It was a painful and anxious situation when my husband lost his job. I sold all my jewelry and started borrowing help from Canossa Jeevan Vikas Kendra for making masks and bags. I used to earn Rs. 25 to Rs. 100/- if at all it was sold. I asked my husband to sell snacks on the roadside in order to sustain ourselves but my husband felt it was humiliating to do so. I was desperately in need of money and food to feed my children. I received help from Canossa Jeevan Vikas Kendra (CJVK) but I wanted to be self-reliant. I felt that I had lost everything in terms of assets except my hope and determination."



CJVK works for the empowerment of women and enables them to be self-reliant. Having listened to Swati and her desire to be self-reliant, CJVK set before her multiple choices which could help her start her own home-based business. She was invited to the monthly sessions conducted by CJVK. Similarly, regular follow up too was done in order to encourage her to face challenges adequately. After her initial fears were addressed she felt confident enough to start her own business. She needed the initial investment to do so, which she did not have. CJVK provided this initial hand holding and thus played a proactive role in providing the needed material assistance to help her start home-based food delivery service and beauty care business.



Swati shared: "I certainly received motivation and strength to work and also assistance to promote my business. I started getting more orders for food and those who didn't know me, they too started contacting me. In the beginning my husband didn't support me. But as my business started growing, I was able to pay my children's school fees and address other needs of my family." Swati has tapped an online delivery app which helps her to deliver her food to the customers in different parts of Mumbai city.

Swati shared: "It was all a learning process where I understood the 'outside world' only after stepping out of these four walls. It has helped me to believe in myself. I feel a contrast between my old self and my new self. These difficult moments have given birth to a new 'Swati' within me. I know that this is only the beginning and there are many opportunities my way. At the same time there are challenges to stay attuned to the changing market trend. At present my husband is back on his job but I still continue my business. I follow my mantra of 'being grateful' which has attracted blessings and prosperity towards me. I feel grateful to all, particularly Canossa Jeevan Vikas Kendra who made my dream become a reality."

Homelessness in Malawi from Cyclone Ana - RSC

People in Malawi are working tirelessly to respond to those affected by Cyclone Ana. So many have been left homeless, there are an estimated 48 families that have lost their homes so far. Additionally, some work has begun to distribute tree seedlings in one of the areas that was worst hit by the Cyclone. You can hear more about Pereka's perspective on Cyclone Ana at the recording [here](#).

-Sr Pereka Nyirenda, RSC



Resources

[The UN Secretary-General's "Our Common Agenda" Report](#)

[Priorities and Practices for Solutions in the SDGs, the Global Compact for Migration and the International Migration Review Forum in 2022 and beyond](#)

[Update on the promotion and application of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Violence against children](#)

[State of the World's Indigenous Peoples, Vol. 5](#)

[2022 UN High-Level Political Forum Information](#)

[2022 World Happiness Report](#)

[Open House: Cultural Spaces Response to Homelessness - Arts & Homelessness International](#)

[Our Publications: Click on the images!](#)

