



UNANIMA
INTERNATIONAL

UNANIMA International News from the UN and Around the World

JUNE 2022 NEWSLETTER

Edition 18



Jean Quinn

Executive Director's Reflection

Dear Friends,

I have just returned from a very successful, though challenging trip to Brazil. My first stop was in Maceio, which is the capital and the largest city in the state of Alagoas, Brazil. The name Maceio is an indigenous term for a spring. There, Sr. Carmen Lucia dos Santos and Sr. Janice Belanger of the Assumption Community warmly greeted me.

This welcoming community was a home away from home for me whilst in Brazil.

The second part of my trip was to São Paulo to visit some people working around homelessness. It is estimated that 31,000 people are homeless in São Paulo—the highest population of homelessness in Brazil. Half of those experiencing homelessness are in shelters, and the rest are visibly on the streets, with tents popping up all over town.

We met with the very charismatic Fr. Lancellotti, a 73-year-old Catholic priest who has worked among São Paulo's street people for over 40 years. He told me how this is a hard time for the poor because they are living through one of the worst housing crises in São Paulo's history. He said there is soaring inflation and high unemployment, coupled with a real estate boom. All of this taken together has pushed people to seek shelter on the street or in unreliable accommodation.

Fr. Lancellotti told me of the fear that people have of the homeless. He said the isolation of the homeless in the city is so profound that even COVID-19 has only had a small impact on them since they are so far removed from São Paulo's social structures. He said, "nobody comes near them, nobody touches them," and he shared that social distancing measures have been imposed on São Paulo's homeless long before the pandemic. To him, the struggle is not of the homeless living under the bridge. Rather, the struggle is for the hidden homeless and the housing insecure. The needs of these people, including for utilities, basic services, and social protections, frequently goes unnoticed and unaddressed by the government. Every person in São Paulo should have the right to, access to, and the enjoyment of a decent home. Often, that starts with ensuring that services meet people where they are.

We, as individuals and societies, can choose how we cultivate relationships with each other. Pope Francis has pointed to a need for a "culture of encounter." For me, a culture of encounter in practice means acknowledging painful injustices from the past and present, and engaging people with humility despite whatever political, social, and economic differences may divide us. In Brazil, I was confronted by the painful realities of homelessness, socioeconomic remnants of colonialism, and the inequalities between the rich and the poor. However, I also met with so many brave and inspiring youth, community members, and leaders—including UNANIMA International's incredible 2021 Woman of Courage, Maria José Cavalcante.

In UNANIMA International, we say “don’t talk about us, without us.” I feel so privileged to be able to go on these regional trips and put this saying into action. Our grassroots members form the backbone of UNANIMA International’s work and inform/create the basis of our advocacy at the UN. They are the experts, the frontline leaders, and a major source of hope for us all.

Warmly,
Jean

What's Happening at the UN



The UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The 21st session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) took place in a hybrid format from April 25th to May 6th. This year's theme was "Indigenous peoples, business, autonomy and the human rights principles of due diligence including free, prior and informed consent." UNANIMA International sponsored a parallel event titled "For Indigenous People, Preserving 'Home,' Culture, and Community is a Human Right." The event featured panelists from Paraguay, Colombia, and Chile, and highlighted significant gaps in legislation, limited access to rights, continued exclusion, marginalization, and dispossession. To view a recording of the event, click [here](#).

The poster features logos at the top for UNAT International, UNANIMA International, ILO Working Group on Indigenous Peoples, PROCLADE, IBVM, and IBVM/CJ. The main title is "For Indigenous People, Preserving 'Home,' Culture, and Community is a Human Right". Below this, it states "A parallel event in the 21st session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues" and "May 3, 2022 2:00-3:30 pm EST". A link "Join the event here" is provided. The "Speakers" section lists:

- Angela Balbuena SSPS - Paraguay: "The homeless situation of the Indigenous people of the Ava Guaraní Community in Paraguay due to eviction from ancestral land occupied by agribusiness companies"
- Maria Violeta Medina Ouscue - Colombia: "The homeless situation of Indigenous people in Colombia due to armed conflict"
- Jorge Servín - Paraguay: "Indigenous Lands in Paraguay: Spaces of Growing Vulnerability"
- Humberto Villasmil Prieto - ILO Chile: "The rights of indigenous people to preserve home, culture, and community from the perspective of ILO convention No. 169 and UNDRIP"

 The poster also includes images of indigenous people and a hand holding a small object. At the bottom, it says "For more Information: Concept Note".

The International Migration Review Forum



The International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) took place from May 17th to May 20th both online and at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The IMRF is the first formal review of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM): the first intergovernmental agreement covering international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner. Subsequent reviews of the GCM will take place every four years at the UN. Civil society participated by attending the events at the UN, as well as through side and parallel events organized on the margins of the forum.

Pictured above: Lara Hicks, UNANIMA International's Executive Assistant/Assistant UN Representative attended the proceedings in-person each day.

The first part of the IMRF consisted of a Multi-Stakeholder Review, where civil society, people with lived experiences, and public officials came together to share their views about migration policy and governance. This input contributed to the greater conversation and highlighted gaps that remain regarding the GCM and its implementation. The second portion of the forum gave space for Member States to share their progress in integrating the principles of the GCM into national laws and plans, as well as their positions on certain aspects of the Progress Declaration and/or the Global Compact.



Lastly, the IMRF concluded with a vote in the General Assembly to adopt the Progress Declaration, which is the outcome document of the IMRF that reaffirms the GCM. The text of the Progress Declaration was negotiated by Member States, with civil society input and advocacy, in the months prior to the forum. Ultimately, the Progress Declaration was adopted by consensus. You can read the final text via the link in the 'Resources' section of this newsletter. To learn more about the IMRF and Lara's thoughts on the outcomes of the forum, visit our most recent blog on our website.

World Family Summit 2022



UNANIMA International's Executive Assistant/Assistant UN Representative, Lara Hicks, will be attending the 2022 World Family Summit. The annual World Family Summit and 75th Anniversary Celebration of the World Family Organization will be held at the Palace

of Nations in Geneva, Switzerland from June 28th to June 29th.

Each year, the World Family Summit is convened by the World Family Organization and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in partnership with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Division for Inclusive Sustainable Development, the United Nations Financing for Sustainable Development Office, and the United Nations NGO Branch. This year's theme is "Invest in Families – Local Authorities and Families working together to alleviate poverty and hunger, promote quality education and well-being, economic growth reducing inequalities in an inclusive environment of peace and security, and Leaving No Family Behind." You can learn more about the World Family Organization's work and the Summit, [here](#).

The High-Level Political Forum



The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) will be held in New York from July 5 – 15, 2022. The HLPF provides an opportunity for UNANIMA International and other NGOs to participate in promoting the global achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This year's theme is "Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while

advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” At the HLPF 2022, 44 countries will share their progress to date on achieving the SDGs.

The activities of the HLPF are divided into two parts. The first consists of the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) by countries, where politicians and government officials will be present. In the second part of the HLPF, the UN will present a series of expert discussions on a selection of the SDGs in order to gain a better understanding of what is required to achieve the goals. Concurrent to these two parts of the HLPF are Civil Society activities. Throughout the two weeks, civil society groups will participate in side events, presentations, and learning events on the SDGs.

The selected goals to be reviewed in depth in 2022 are:

- **SDG 4 - Quality Education,**
- **SDG 5 - Gender Equality,**
- **SDG 14 - Life Below Water,**
- **SDG 15 - Life on Land, and**
- **SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals**

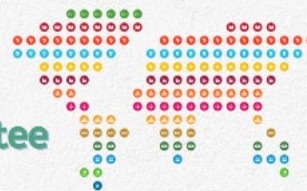
UNANIMA International has access to the HLPF and can present questions to experts and government officials, hold events along the margins of the HLPF, and can share views through written statements and reports. UNANIMA International and the International Union of Superiors General (UISG) will be partnering on a side event for the HLPF titled “Leadership for Change: Sisters Sustaining Hope in Vulnerable Communities.” More details are forthcoming. Follow us on social media for the latest updates on this event and this year’s HLPF!

NGO Committee Updates

NGO Committee for Social Development



NGO CSocD Executive Committee



Chair

Jean Quinn, DW



Vice-Chair

MaryAnn Dantuono



Secretary

Liliane Nkunzimana



Treasurer

Cynthia Mathew




Member-at-Large

Aria Ribieras

 <https://ngosocdev.org/>

 Twitter: @NGOCsocD

 @ngo_csocd

After the 60th Commission for Social Development in February, the NGO Committee for Social Development (NGO CSocD) began the process of transitioning to a new Executive Committee. We are delighted to share that Jean Quinn, UNANIMA International's Executive Director, will be serving as the Chair of NGO CSocD for the 2022 – 2024 term. Under Jean's leadership, preparations are already underway for the 61st Commission for Social Development, which will focus on decent work and worker protections. To learn more about NGO CSocD's work and the new Executive Committee, please visit the committee's website via this [link](https://ngosocdev.org/).

NGO Committee on Migration

The NGO Committee on Migration has met regularly over the past few months, especially in relation to the International Migration Review Forum. For the May monthly meeting, the Children in Migration Subcommittee put together a program focusing on the role of cities, local government, and mayors in integrating migrants into their communities and ensuring that migrant children have access to much needed services.



UNANIMA International's Executive Assistant, Lara, along with other members of the Children in Migration Subcommittee, helped with tech/administration, communications with speakers, and the planning of the program. Speakers included Dr. Najat Maalla M'jid—the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence Against Children; Ms. Aissata Camara—Deputy Commissioner for Operations & Strategic Initiatives and Chief of Staff at the NYC Mayor's Office for International Affairs; Ms. Fátima Fernández—Project and Policy Officer on Migration at United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG); and a representative from the Mayor's administration of Bologna, Italy. In June, the committee debriefed and reflected on the IMRF, as well as elected a new Executive Committee.

Woman of Courage 2021 – Trip to Brazil

From April 27th to May 6th, 2022 UNANIMA International's Executive Director, Jean Quinn, traveled to Maceio, Alagoas, in northeastern Brazil and then to São Paulo, in southern Brazil. She went to engage with the grassroots and to present the 2021 Woman of Courage award in person. This trip marked the first regional UI visit since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Jean certainly made the most of the trip, with a very busy itinerary!



In Maceio, Alagoas she was received with open arms by the Sisters of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, and also met with some of their associates, as well as with a Sister of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. She visited a mining area where at least 55,000 people were displaced, and met with representatives of some of their families. She also went to project Thalita, an association for “at risk” children, adolescents, and women. There she witnessed the beauty and power of music in the restoration of human dignity. She also met with a Federal Deputy and heard about the political struggles of the country and the plight of the poor.

On Saturday, April 30th the Woman of Courage 2021 Award was presented to Maria José Cavalcante from Flor do Bosque, Maceio, Alagoas. Jean traveled to Flor do Bosque, a rural land settlement on the outskirts of the city of Maceio to meet Maria. There, the people set up two tents to receive the many guests coming to this event. People came from the city as well as from the surrounding settlements in the area. There were representatives from the Pastoral Land Commission, the Women’s Workers’ Movement, university professors, politicians, members of Maria’s family, the Sisters of the Assumption and other religious communities. A bus load of children and adolescents from Project Thalita also came to provide music for this special event.

During the celebration, various people were happy to speak out to publicly

acknowledge Maria as truly a “Woman of Courage” in their midst. Many had witnessed Maria as a young leader who, years ago, faced the gunmen of the big sugar cane landowners and the police in confrontation with the families who finally gained the rights to the land called Flor do Bosque. They know of Maria’s trip to Haiti in 2009 where she spent six months working to help rebuild that country after an earthquake. Most of all they see Maria today planting “seeds of hope” for the future. As an agricultural technician, she continues her own on-going formation in agroecology. She is now leading her community in beginning pesticide-free agriculture, working on planting and reforesting the land that was so mistreated by the chemicals used for so many years in the fertilization of sugarcane.



As a woman, her efforts to fight against poverty and inequality are untiring. During the coronavirus pandemic, she helped to organize people in the surrounding settlements to collect food for families suffering in the city. The awarding of our Woman of Courage that day was a most wonderful ceremony and an opportunity for the people of Maceio to learn more about how their stories, concerns, and activism are brought to the United Nations.

After her very engaging visit in Maceio, Alagoas, Jean traveled south to São Paulo. Beyond meetings, radio/TV interviews, and presentations on UNANIMA International, Jean also helped to serve breakfast to 500 people, lunch to 600 people, and conversed with 20 people in an open session/exchange in São Paulo. From walking tours, Jean was able to see where many homeless people live in the city. On another day, she met with the Salvadorians lay associates, learned about their different projects and groups focusing on children, women’s experiences with domestic violence, housing for women,

and a project for children whose families participate in trafficking, among others. Jean also had some time to meet with the Charity Sisters/Ottawa, the Vedrunas, members of UNANIMA International, and the Conference of Religious in São Paulo. In both regions Jean visited in Brazil, she met with the landless poor, politicians, mayors, and ministers, as well as listened to local choirs and music groups.



Without a doubt, Jean's regional trip to Brazil touched the hearts of many, especially some of those furthest left behind in our present global reality. Jean certainly made UNANIMA International more visible, encouraging us all to help bring our grassroots stories to light at the UN.

A big thank you to Sr. Carmen Lucia dos Santos, SASV, Sr. Janice Belanger, SASV, Sr. Maureen Foltz, CCV, Sr. Virma Barion, and Sr. Filomeon for their help with coordinating and making this trip a reality. Want to learn more about UNANIMA International's work? Check out our publications [here](#) or click this [link](#) for an overview of UI's activities.

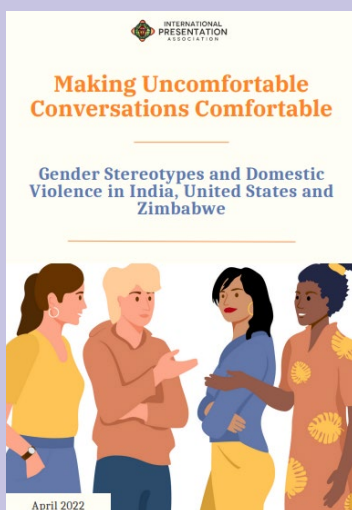


25th Anniversary of Sophia Housing

Sophia Housing celebrated 25 years of responding to homelessness in Ireland by paying tribute to the major role Religious Congregations have played in responding to homelessness. UNANIMA International's Executive Director, Jean Quinn, founded Sophia Housing in 1997. Since then, Sophia has provided a pathway for Religious Congregations to contribute to addressing homelessness by transforming land and property into much needed homes. You can learn more about Sophia Housing's incredible work and the 25th Anniversary [here](#).



Feature in International Presentation Association Publication



On May 25th, the International Presentation Association (IPA) launched a new research publication: “Making Uncomfortable Conversations Comfortable. Gender Stereotypes and Domestic Violence in India, the United States and Zimbabwe.” UNANIMA International’s Executive Director, Jean Quinn, was interviewed for the publication. She shared her experiences working with homeless women and families as it relates to domestic violence and gender. Notably, Jean drew attention to how homeless women saw themselves in relation to men, as well as the need for early intervention strategies to break cycles of abuse. To read the publication and learn more about IPA’s research findings, click [here](#) and visit the

Intern Spotlight

This spring we hosted two interns from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University: Shiyue (Teresa) Zhang and Emily Rose Schabert. The UNANIMA International team is grateful for the internship programs and partnerships we have forged with different universities in New York state. Check out our spotlight on Emily's contributions as a 2022 UNANIMA International spring intern, below:



- Social Media Recommendations and Research
- Literature Review on Children's Experiences with Homelessness, Displacement, & Trauma
- Attended NGO Mining Working Group Meetings
- Authored UI Blogpost on Ukraine
- *Children's Homelessness, Poverty, and Trafficking* Presentation and Research Brief
- *Children's Poverty, Homelessness, and Child Labor* Presentation and Research Brief
- Compiled and authored Policy Recommendations for future UI Publication
- Attended CSocD60 and CSW66 side events

Grassroots Stories



Vedruna Communities in Mission

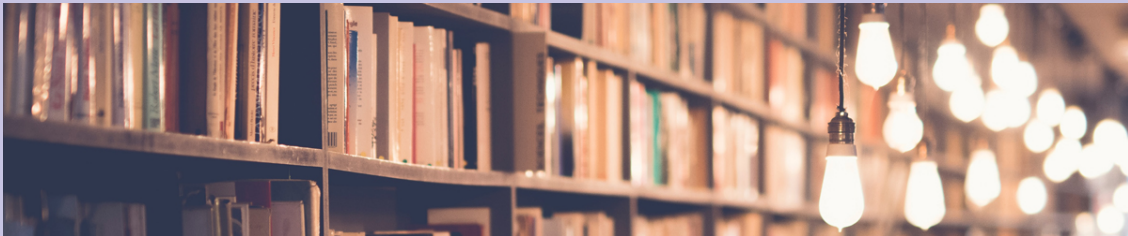
The Carmelite Sisters of Charity, Vedruna (CCV) have been working tirelessly across the world to care for vulnerable people and communities. Here are some photos and short updates from CCV Sisters in action:

- In India, young women who lived on the streets of Mumbai are cared for
- Sister Teo at home, where the Vedruna community includes undocumented immigrants from sub-Saharan Africa
- Sr. Gabriela is seen transferring young people who were recently rescued from human trafficking in Togo and celebrated Mother's Day with women from a market in Lomé
- Haitians suffering from illness are cared for by Sisters





Resources



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

[ILO Report "Care at Work"](#)

[HLPF Website and Information](#)

[UISG – Sowing Hope for the Planet](#)

[IMRF Progress Declaration](#)

[NGO CSocD Biennial Report](#)

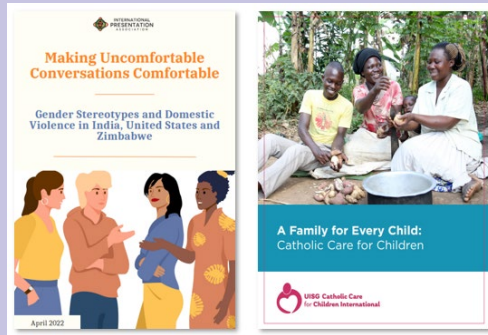
[Making Uncomfortable Conversations](#)

June 12

World Day Against Child Labor

June 20

World Refugee Day



July 30

World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

August 9

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

August 12

International Youth Day

August 19

World Humanitarian Day



Our next newsletter will return in September.

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