I attended CSW62 hoping to gather information to enrich the working of our justice promoter committee, under the direction of our IPA Justice Promoter for the Dubuque Presentations. We’re currently developing a corporate stance on US immigration/migration issues and soon will develop one on human trafficking, so those two issues are uppermost.

As an ongoing volunteer with migrant assistance on the Mexico border, my two weeks at the UN placed my work on the ground into a global political context. This week, the Global Compact on Migration was also under deliberations, summoning pertinent people and events to CSW62. I’ve already updated DBQ PBVM’s Immigration Circle of activists with my new knowledge.

Some Major Concepts and Opportunities:

- Global Compact on Migration: (mentioned in previous paragraph) Its importance and development
- Advocacy Training: equipping rights activists with negotiation techniques to influence policy
- Pitfalls of US employment visas for unskilled workers [H2A and H2B]: the line between legal migration of unskilled workers and human trafficking is very thin
- “Distributive Leadership” (not a “service mentality”)—Regard women as resources rather than victims, primarily or only in need of our help.
- Alternative resources for education on the SDGs: 1) UNESCO Curriculum, 2) The Peace Boat, 3) Work of NGOs
- Resources for faith-based activists on Human Trafficking issue
- Intersectional Feminism—Mutual empowerment across the multifaceted experiences of women: differing races, ages, different abilities, classes and economic groups, rural and urban

Reflections & Personal Enrichment

Conversations with women from around the globe is an enriching opportunity at a global gathering. I participated in significant discussions from women from other continents. I particularly appreciated the opportunity to live with and share with other women IPA reps from Australia and the Philippines as well as IPA’s NGO Representative at the UN. Supporting two of them as they presented on panels was a highlight and a point of pride. I hope these relationships will continue to benefit IPA.

The caliber of resources and personnel at a global commission lifted me personally. The opportunity to participate in the formal opening of CSW62 in the General Assembly Hall was a thrill.

Yet, at the same time, I also appreciated the opportunity to rally with Florida’s migrant fieldworkers and demand just working conditions from an oppressive CEO. I met women involved with the fight for migrant workers and developed relationships with them also. I enjoyed opportunities to use the Spanish language.

Despite all good intentions, we make mistakes. I saw how this can happen when we approach cultures or people who are different. Listening is to others is critically important to avoid cultural imposition.
The UN’s person-centered approach and emphasis on both human rights and peace over and again reinforced an uplifting message:

Women are a resource. Women are resilient. Despite the fact they face multiple obstacles and complex challenges, women are change-makers who adapt, survive and bring others along with them.

My Action Agenda Going Forward

• Continue to update Immigration (Migration) Circle for Dubuque IA Presentations with info gained at CSW62.
• Share information gained at CSW62 with Human Trafficking Circle for Dubuque IA Presentations.
• Supply data relevant to migration across the Mexico border into the United States with IPA office. Continue to keep IPA office updated as new data is available.
• Participate in the NGO Migration Committee under the auspices of the IPA (if Elsa can add my name to that list).
• Consider composing modules for discussion based on the Beijing Principles and/or CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women). The discussion could integrate Nano Nagle’s life and ministry and could potentially conclude with groups submitting relevant stories of women “from the ground” on a template designed by the IPA office, thus contributing to IPA’s ability to enrich UN deliberations with real-life stories/data from grassroots.

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