IPA Update - March 2020

Women of Earth . . . Women of Light
Blessings to the Women of the World

Think of mothers, wives, daughters who have many mouths to feed but cannot because of famine, floods, drought. Think of the ‘women who preside at life’s Eucharistic banquet, breaking the bread of their lives to feed the hungry of the world.’ ~ Astrid Lobo Gajiwala.

Seek out a mother on the margins in your neighbourhood and listen to her story. Who or what are you mothering today to feed those who hunger for justice, hunger for dignity, hunger for eucharist, hunger for oneness, hunger for mother God?
Keep a journal to continue to reflect on your experiences.
Update from the Programme Action Leader

"Don't talk about us, without us."

The Commission for Social Development (CSocD) at the UN in New York took place from Feb 10-19, 2020. The main theme was "Affordable housing and social protection systems for all to address homelessness." The above quote from people who have experienced homelessness was repeated by NGOs, especially by religious communities, during the General Assembly and side events. There was a great emphasis to have voices from the grassroots come to the UN, to speak about their experience homelessness and have their voice present to work towards a solution.

IPA supported this movement during the side event, "The links between inequalities inadequate housing, and homelessness" on February 11th. Despoina spoke on behalf of IPA and the Grassroots Task Force Subcommittee of the NGO Committee on Social Development, giving voice to the grassroots. She had people present around the room, read quotes of people’s experience of homelessness around the world. It made the topic of homelessness come alive as the voices began to surround those present, bringing alive their perspective. You can watch her part of the presentation [here](https://social.un.org/csocd).

During the Civil Society Forum, Despoina asked a question to the panel asking, "what is more challenging, to resolve homelessness by prevention and relevant polices or just to try to stop it by
Countries made statements during the general assembly which can be found here. Click on your country to see their statement on how they are addressing homelessness. Ecuador Guatemala India Nicaragua Pakistan Philippines Thailand United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland United States of America Zambia Zimbabwe Holy See

Global Sisters Report is featuring a series of articles on homelessness. Read more about A Place to Call Home.

Please continue send us photos, and/or information on any projects, protests, rallies, or ministries you or your community are working on. We would love to hear from you! If you have any information or upcoming event, please let us know and we will include it in the Update.

Please follow us on Facebook @InternationalPresenationAssociation and on Twitter @IPA_UN. Don’t forget to like, share, and re-tweet!

Thank you for representing IPA each day!

Mary Therese Krueger, PBVM

Does your community minister to those who are homeless or lack adequate shelter? Click here to share your ministry!

Update from the UN

At the core of the 2020 is the need for action to empower women and girls. In 2020, the global community will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995). A five-year milestone will be reached towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. 2020 is therefore a pivotal year for the accelerated realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, everywhere.

The sixty-fourth session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW64), is March 9-20, 2020. The main focus of the session will be on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and its contribution towards the full realization of
- The NGO Committee on the Status of Women (NGOCSW64) Planning Committee, *Beijing Platform for Action Study Group*.
- The NGO Committee on the Status of Women (NGOCSW64), *Feminist and Women's Movement Action Planning Group*.
- The ad hoc subgroup of the Working Group on Girls that organizes the intergenerational conversation circle within the CSW64 (March 11, 2020, 1:00-2:30pm).

Read more here...

*Dr. Despoina Afrodit Milaki*

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**Update from the Grassroots**

**Edmund Rice International Training on Human Rights and Advocacy**

*27th Jan to 29th Jan, 2020*

Edmund Rice International (ERI) is sponsored by Christian brothers and Presentation Brothers. It is a partner organisation with Franciscans International in Geneva and has a presence both Geneva and New York. It is a faith based nongovernmental organisation committed to advocacy and human rights.

Programme was held in Christian Brother’s residence in Geneva. Sr. Pushpa Lalitha Anthonymuthu (North India IPA coordinator) and Sr. Mary Therese Krueger (IPA Programme Action Leader) attended the workshop along with 13 participants from 5 counties who are connected with Edmund Rice International (ERI). Training was focused on International level human rights and advocacy, United Nations mechanisms, Universal Periodical Review (UPR), Treaty Bodies, special procedures, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Convention on the
The session was stated with introducing the participants and their role of human rights in their respective place they come from with symbols. So it set a way to start the journey with one another. We discussed the difference in justice and charity responses in our ministries. Charity responses include providing direct services and solutions to immediate needs. Justice responses include promoting social change and addressing the root causes, structures for solutions to long term needs. Advocacy is the way we introduce the need for change in a situation by addressing the underlying causes of the situation.

Read more here...

Pushpa Lalitha Anthonymuthu, PBVM

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**Upcoming Dates for IPA**

- **8 March** - International Women's Day
- **9-20 March** - UN Commission on the Status of Women
- **9 March** - Working Group on Girls Intergenerational Conversation Circle
- **10 March** - Working Group on Girls Intergenerational Conversation Circle
- **11 March** - Working Group on Girls Intergenerational Conversation Circle
- **20 March** - International Day of Happiness
- **21 March** - International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- **22 March** - World Water Day
- **24 March** - International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims
- **25 March** - International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade
- **26-30 April** - Justice Contacts Gathering in Chicago, Illinois, USA
- **26-31 May** - Justice Contacts Gathering in Bangkok, Thailand