Message from Ann Marie Quinn PBVM, IPA Executive Director

As we remember the anniversary of Nano Nagle’s death, 26th of April, it is a significant time to share with you the first edition of “IPA Matters”. It is envisaged that this bi-monthly newsletter will keep you informed on how the 7th Assembly commitments are being honoured and advanced. We journey together towards the 8th IPA Assembly in September 2022.

The past twelve months have certainly been like no other in our world. Most of us can name the tremendous impact this virus has had on us. This includes loss, grief, sorrow, pain, separation, limited mobility beyond our homes and offices, and the world around us has become increasingly uncertain and volatile. Technology became a lifeline for Zooming, emailing and texting as we found ways to stay connected and to work with one another, albeit not the same as being together in the same space.

In the first edition of “IPA Matters” I will update you on four of the ten commitments and how they are progressing; the second, fifth, first and third commitments in that order, as below.

• **2nd commitment:** To establish an interim task group to determine the appropriate organisational structure for IPA to achieve its mission
• **5th commitment:** To develop a Strategic Plan
• **1st commitment:** To respond to the cry of the Earth and to people made poor by embracing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a human rights framework, addressing the issues of Women and Children, Care of the Earth and Indigenous People, as is relevant to our local regions
• **3rd commitment:** To establish an interim advisory consisting of the three IPA Directors and others with expertise in global work, human rights and advocacy.

It is envisaged that this bi-monthly newsletter will complement the monthly “IPA Justice Contact Update” shared by our IPA Programme Action Leader (Mary T Krueger PBVM). Each “IPA Justice Contact Update” contains a reflection from the IPA Spirituality and Charism Committee (Maria Lazzaro, PPVM; Terry Abraham, PBVM; and Dorothy Scesny, PBVM), UN Updates and guidance on upcoming UN happenings shared by Dr Despoina Afroditi Milaki, IPA NGO Representative. It also shares stories about the justice work being undertaken across the IPA Network and gathered by the IPA Justice Contacts. See recent issues here.

I hope that “IPA Matters” will resonate with our IPA Direction... “We find strength in connecting, trusting that our feet know the way and our hearts carry the light.”

I pray that together we will emerge from the pandemic committed to a new and better way of living. We go forward in hope - the vaccine heralds hope at this time, knowing “No One Is Safe Until Everyone Is Safe”.

Ann Marie
2nd commitment

Our second commitment called us to ‘Establish an interim task group to determine the appropriate organisational structure for IPA to achieve its mission’. In response, in January 2018 a Task Group Report was presented to the IPA Directors by the members of the Task Group: Joyce Meyer PBVM, Joan O’ Reilly PBVM, and George Sony Kutty.

The Task Group highlighted IPA’s strengths and collective desire to collaborate in the area of Justice, in keeping with the shared charism of Nano Nagle.

A prominent outcome of the 7th Assembly was the desire by IPA to;
• Expand the influence and reach of its mission
• Address the issue of the falling demographics of its Congregation’s membership
• Desire to include the participation of others beyond Sisters.

While honouring IPA’s existing ethos and network structure, in the report the Task Group advised on the need for clearer direction, focus, planning, support and leadership at a governance level. Consequently, one of the first actions undertaken was to strengthen our IPA capacity with the appointment of an Executive Director (full-time), a Programme Action Leader (part-time), and a Spirituality and Charism Committee.

While the Finance Committee is not a new committee in the restructured IPA, its members are: (top left) Katherine Fennel (Conference); (top right) Ann Marie Quinn, PBVM (IPA Executive Director); (bottom left) Noreen Flaherty PBVM (Union); and (bottom right) Committee Chairperson, Mary Anne Ingram (Society).

The IPA Board Members are Ann Marie Quinn PBVM (IPA Executive Director), (top right) Gabrielle Morgan PBVM (IPA Director Society), (bottom left) Sharon Fagan PBVM (IPA Director Union), and (bottom right) Joy Peterson (IPA Director Conference).

In September 2019, Sr Elsa Muttathu, outgoing IPA NGO Representative, welcomed Dr. Despoina Afroditi Milaki and incoming IPA NGO Representative to the IPA Office in New York.

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Susan Cullen, the IPA Office Administrator located in the IPA office in Lucan, Co. Dublin is a new addition to the IPA staff.
“Establish an interim Task Group to determine the appropriate organisational structure for IPA to achieve its mission.”

In due course, the restructuring of IPA has led to the governance role of the Congregational and Unit leaders - as trustees of the Association - being re-established.

A governing structure is required in order to provide:
• effective and accountable leadership; and
• consistency in purpose, message and approach.

An organisation is shaped by what it seeks to do, by what it seeks to bring about, by a compelling vision of the future. An organisational structure is not an end in itself; clearly it is developed so that the organisation can fulfil its purpose.

IPA, while recognised as an NGO, is at its core a faith community whose actions stem from deep spirituality. The IPA structure is at the service of its members and Presentation People as they further, in their local contexts, the vision and goals of the Association.
5th Commitment

Our fifth commitment called us to ‘Develop a strategic plan for IPA’. In 2019, over a sustained period, the IPA team worked in partnership with the IPA Justice Contacts to develop and complete the IPA Education and Action for Justice 2020-2022 Strategy. Then last year, they worked on the Implementation Plan (September 2020 – August 2021) for the IPA Strategy. Both are significant IPA developments and responses to our fifth IPA commitment.

1st Commitment

Our first commitment called us to ‘Respond to the cry of the Earth and to people made poor by embracing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a human rights framework, addressing the key issues of Women and Children, Care of the Earth and Indigenous People, as is relevant to our local regions’.

Our response to this commitment that speaks to the very core of IPA and our Mission, is set out in the five Priority Actions in the IPA Strategy with the foci of Women and Children, Care of the Earth and Indigenous People, as well as the development of our IPA strategy and capacity as outlined above in our 2nd and 5th Assembly commitment responses.

IPA UN Advocacy Focus
Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children

Our IPA UN Advocacy Focus 2020-2022 emerged from our emphasis on Women and Children and was developed in consultation with the IPA Justice Contacts. Having this specific Advocacy Focus is critical for engagement and collaboration at a UN level to ensure we achieve an even greater impact on a global scale. This was borne out last November when over 130 IPA Members and Presentation People gathered virtually on the eve of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women for a very empowering webinar on this topic.
IPA Justice Contacts Gathering 2021

The IPA Justice Contacts are integral to the future of an enlivened IPA. In late February and mid-March 2021, two groups of Justice Contacts gathered virtually with three objectives: To review the progress of the IPA Education and Action for Justice 2020-2022 Strategy implementation; to understand more about IPA’s involvement in Priority Actions 2 (to honour and advance the rights of the Earth) and 3 (to honour and advance the rights of Indigenous and Tribal people), and to develop a further sense of the spirituality that underpins these Actions, and to remind us to think about how the priority areas are connected to IPA’s UN Advocacy Focus (Elimination of Violence against Women and Children). In the next edition of “IPA Matters,” we will share more on the outcome of these gatherings.

Eradication of Poverty - IPA Project Fund

Each year IPA commemorates the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty by requesting donations from all IPA members. In alternate years, either the Conference, Society or Union identifies a project within their membership that promotes the Eradication of Poverty to be the beneficiary of the donation. In 2020, Society identified its mission in Papua New Guinea and its Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Project in Aitape.

Over $120,000 was raised to allow the Presentation Sisters in Papua New Guinea to act on their decision that (1) each Sister looks to supporting victims of (GBV) victims in whatever ministry she was involved and (2) to develop a centre in Aitape for the women and children’s victims of GBV.

Actions taken on Project Outline

• Building a network of NGOs currently working in Papua New Guinea and fostering positive working relationships with them.

1. The PNG Leadership Team has been in discussions with an NGO, Femilli PNG to partner in Training, Mentoring and Placements for Sisters dedicated to this work (Covid has stopped the implementation of this).

2. Sisters in Aitape are working with the local Church (across denominations), Government, Health and Police in developing programs and monitoring victims.

3. The Leadership Team is beginning discussions with other NGO’s in seeking a partnership for the implementation of the project to ensure good management and long-term viability.

4. The John of God Brothers have offered a property next to the local hospital for the work.

See an update on the IPA 2020 Project from Anne Lane PBVM Society President here.
Our 3rd commitment called us to ‘Establish an interim advisory committee consisting of three Directors and others with expertise in global work, human rights and advocacy’. A process was initiated to appoint this committee. The IPA Trustees, who are Congregational/Unit Leaders, were requested to submit nominations for the Advisory Committee. This was not an easy task for the Directors to decide as there were so many impressive resumes.

The following individuals generously accepted the invitation to voluntarily serve as members of the committee until August 2022. They bring a variety of gifts and professional experience along with a strong passion for justice for all and a deep commitment to living the charism of Nano Nagle. The IPA Directors and Executive Director met with the committee for an inaugural meeting facilitated by Ms Judith King. It was an opportunity to meet the members and to experience their enthusiasm and willingness to participate in the exploration of the sustainability of IPA as it endeavours to respond to an emerging future.

The Advisory Committee will assist in furthering the development and sustainability of IPA into the future. Part of their role is to prepare and assist with implementing a process to expand the number of members on the Board of Directors.

**Joe Morrow**
Joe Morrow is a Senior Lawyer for the Queensland Government working in civil litigation. Joe spent six months working for IPA with Sr Elsa at the UN. This work included extensive advocacy on behalf of IPA communities around the world, engaging with both government and non-government partners and presenting at various commissions and intergovernmental negotiations.

**Kathy Hogan**
Kathy Hogan is the coordinator of the over 130 Friends of Nano/Associates in Fargo North Dakota and has been a Friends of Nano Associate for 20 years. Kathy is currently a North Dakota State Senator serving on Health and Human Services Committees. Kathy has a deep passion for services to children, those who have been made poor, seniors and other vulnerable individuals.

**Sneha Gill**
Sneha Gill PBVM is a Presentation Sister from North Indian Province, India. Sneha has experience of working on Human Rights Issues for the last 28. She was appointed by the Delhi Government as Delhi Minorities Commission Member among the Christian Community and also as the State Representative to work for Minority Issues. She serves as Legal Aid Counsel for Delhi State Legal Aid for Prisoners.

**Dr Thomas Kandasami**
Dr Thomas Kandasami is a commerce graduate with several medals for academic excellence from the Jesuit Institution Loyola College, Chennai, South of India. He holds a Doctorate in the area of Governance Engagement in the Financial Management of Non-Profit Organisations. He is actively involved in the promotion of Digital and Virtual Governance, Compliance and Financial Management in the NPO Sector.

**Ruth Comerford**
Over the past 15 years, Ruth has worked as a Prison Chaplain in Dublin and has a keen interest in the areas of Social Justice, Human Rights, and advocacy, and assists those in their journey to break the cycle of disadvantage in their lives caused by imprisonment or from socio-economic deprivation.
Human Rights


Two of the sessions covered the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). This is a unique process that involves a review of the human rights records of all UN Member States. The UPR is a State-driven process, under the auspices of the Human Rights Council, which provides the opportunity for each State to declare what actions they have taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to fulfil their human rights obligations. The ultimate aim of this mechanism is to improve the human rights situation in all countries and address human rights violations wherever they occur. Currently, no other universal mechanism of this kind exists.

Sister Jancy Selvaraj, PBVM presenting her project for the ERI advocacy training programme, focusing on our IPA UN advocacy focus (the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children), specifically human trafficking in Thailand.

You can watch Jancy’s presentation here.

A strong feature of the UPR process is the ability of any person or organisation to make a technical submission that offers suggested recommendations.

This year Ireland is one of four IPA regions to be reviewed as part of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). In alignment with our 10th commitment, IPA collaborated with Christian Brothers Ireland on the Irish UPR. The Director of the Interprovincial Justice Desk (Brian O’Toole) worked on the joint submission on Human Trafficking, the Rights of Asylum Seekers, and Refugees and Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (Ireland). Our Lady of the Apostles Ireland also worked on the submission. The final Irish UPR was submitted to Edmund Rice International (ERI) six months ahead of the review date November 2021. ERI then submitted it to the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights in Geneva on the 18th of March. The Irish submission can be read here.

The UPR of Australia’s human rights record took place virtually in Geneva in January. ERI’s submission focussed on children in detention and the age of criminal responsibility, the rights of indigenous people, asylum seekers and refugees, the impact of climate change, trafficking in persons and the need for a charter of human rights.

Edmund Rice International collaborated with like-minded organisation when drafting their Australian UPR Submission which included IPA and Australian Catholic Religious against Trafficking in Humans (Acrath). The Australian submission can be read here.

Also, in November 2021, Papua New Guinea and Thailand are due their reviews.
Local and global issues that are reflective of our Commitments and intersect with the IPA UN Advocacy Focus

Fighting human trafficking across the globe

Sister Lisa Pires is based in Calangute, a city in Goa that she described as one of the highest trafficked areas in all of Asia. She is part of a vast but little-known network of Catholic nuns dedicated to fighting human trafficking across the globe. She may be a woman of the cloth, but Pires operates like a hard-nosed private investigator. She devotes her days to walking the streets of tough neighbourhoods and questioning local shop owners and others to help her identify places where trafficking may be occurring. She uses the information to build detailed maps that she shares with police.

Pope Francis met with more than 100 members of Talitha Kum at the Vatican last year in part to draw attention to a new fundraising program called Super Nuns. “Problems are best resolved by going out into the streets,” Francis said. You can read the full story by Jake Whitman on NBC News here.

During the 65th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW65) from March 15th – 26th the above webinar hosted by Renate took place (‘See, Say and Do Something: Raising Awareness on Human Trafficking’) featuring Ireland and United Kingdom Justice Contact, Brian O’Toole, speaking about Human Trafficking in the UK. Click here to view this webinar.

Ireland Universal Periodic Review

November 2021

Ireland will be reviewed in the 39th Session and together with the Christian Brothers Ireland, Our Lady of Apostles Ireland and the Presentation Interprovincial Justice Desk Ireland they worked on our joint submission. One of the issues addressed in the UPR was Human Trafficking, also Refugees and Domestic and Gender Based Violence. Click here to view the submission.
Newfoundland: Labrador
September 25th – October 1st, 2022

Since the birth of IPA, the Assembly has been a recurring pivotal moment for the Association. Hopefully, the global pandemic we have been experiencing will no longer be at the forefront and it will be possible for the next Assembly to take place in September 2022 in St John’s, Newfoundland.

As part of the initial planning for the next IPA Assembly, Srs Gabrielle Morgan (IPA Director Society), Sharon Fagan (IPA Director Union), Joy Peterson (IPA Director Conference), and Ann Marie Quinn (IPA Executive Director) invited the IPA Trustees, who are the Congregational and Unit Leaders from the Australian Society, North American Conference and Union of Presentation Sisters, to come together for a Zoom meeting.

Sr Anne Lane and Ms Judith King, who will be the facilitators for the 8th IPA Assembly, guided the conversations around the future emergence of IPA and invited the Leaders to share their vision and hopes for the next Assembly. There were enthusiasm and energy around continuing to explore the possibility of widening our tent to make the next Assembly a more inclusive global gathering.

“...There is movement of God’s spirit afoot, a new consciousness rising within our Presentation family as well as within humankind, contributing to this consciousness is a call of discipleship for this time. This call is not dependent on age, ministry, or state of health. It is a matter of seeing that all things are Holy, one in Being, one Essence, one life, his worldview that we embrace is one that provides movement towards a global earth community.”

(Elena Hoye PBVM, adapted)
8th March meeting of IPA Congregation/Unit Leaders

Top Row, Left to Right (L to R): Judith King (Co-Facilitator), Ann Marie Quinn (Executive Director), Anne Lane PBVM (Co-Facilitator, and Janice Klien PVBM (Aberdeen)

2nd Row, L to R: Eileen Keating PBVM (England), Joy Peterson PBVM (IPA Director Dubuque), Sharon Fagan PBVM (Union IPA Director), and Carmen Hernandez PBVM (Dubuque)

3rd Row, L to R: Betty Rae Lee PBVM (Canada), Margaret Barclay PBVM (Wagga Wagga), Julie Watson PBVM (Union), and Margaret Cannane PBVM (Lismore)

Bottom Row, L to R: Gabrielle Morgan (Tasmania), Mary Hanrahan PBVM (Ireland North East ), Eileen Kearney PBVM (Latin America), and Judith Bingura PBVM (Africa)

15th March meeting of IPA Congregation/Unit Leaders

Top Row, Left to Right (L to R): Anne Lane PBVM, Ann Marie Quinn PBVM, Judith King, and Joy Peterson PBVM

2nd Row, L to R: Grace McKieran (Ireland SouthWest), Patricia Anastasio (New Windsor and Staten Island NY), Jocelyn Quijano PBVM (Union USA), and Helen Carboon PBVM (Victoria)

3rd Row, L to R: Mary Franzmann PBVM (Queensland), Fatima Rodrigo PBVM (India South), Gabrielle Morgan PBVM, and Sharon Fagan PBVM

Bottom Row, L to R: Riffat Sadij PBVM (Paris tan), Victoria Embate PBVM (Philippines), Lucy Van Kessel PBVM (Western Australia), and Lizzy Mathew PBVM (India North)

IPA 8th Assembly Steering Group – St John’s Newfoundland and Labrador

In January, I had an initial meeting with the members of the Assembly Steering Group – the Presentation Sisters Newfoundland-Labrador who will be hosting the 8th IPA Assembly in September 2022 on behalf of Union: (top right) Roisin Gannon PBVM, (bottom left) Betty Rae Lee PBVM, and (bottom right) Deirdre Green Lono.
Notable Publications
Towards 2030: Grassroots Experiences with Inequalities – this is a collaborative project with NGO Committee Social Development’s Grassroots Task Force. The report was launched on 1st March 2021 and you can watch the webinar here.

June 1st IPA Webinar: Covid 19 Era – Challenges and Opportunities for Implementing IPA Priority Action.

June 1st IPA invitation: Launch of booklet on “Elimination of Gender-Based Violence in a COVID19/post-COVID19 era: Respond-Advocate-Prevent”

The Nano Nagle Prayer
Lord God, you raise up people From age to age To speak anew Your Word to us And to show us your ways Such is Nano Nagle.
In days when courage is needed, You give us this woman of strength To walk before us with conviction. In days of great change, You present us with a prophet whose faith is firm.

As the light of her lantern brought hope Into the lives made wretched By poverty and oppression, So may she inspire us To compassionate action For those in need around us.

Our work is not grounded until it is grounded in Nano.

Ann Marie Quinn PBVM
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Hosted by School of Education, University College Dublin

Speakers

Dr Censu Caruana, University of Malta
The value and the approaches of peer mentoring, with regard to SDG 4

Dr Molly Abraham, University of Delhi
Educating women in India: societal barriers and structural supports

Prof. Masooda Bano, University of Oxford
Education and ambition for girls and women in Pakistan

For more information contact
ruth.ferris@ucd.ie

6th May 2021
14:00 - 15:30
Irish Standard Time

REGISTER HERE

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https://www.ucd.ie/pinnacle/