



# Embrace the World

A journal of congregational justice issues prepared by:  
the Good Shepherd International Justice Peace Office

February 2009 # 27

## UN NEWS

Shirley O Sullivan intern at the UN

### Commission for Social Development

The United Nations Commission for Social Development met for two weeks from February 4 to 13, 2009. The **Civil Society Forum** met in advance to facilitate a dialogue among the NGO community, government delegates, and UN representatives around key social development themes. Forum participants had the opportunity to consult and strategize, as well as to finalize the NGO Statement that was formally presented at the UN Commission for Social Development.

The Sisters of the Good Shepherd were represented by Yvette Arnold (NY) Del Kang (Singapore), Shirley O'Sullivan, (Ireland) together with Barbara O' Carroll, Katherine Ward and Winifred Doherty from the GSIJP Office. (See second row)



### What is the Commission?

The Commission for Social Development is a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. It consists of 46 member States who meet once a year in New York.

### What do they do?

The work of the Commission is organized in two year cycles: the priority theme changes every two years. The first year is a **review year**; the second year is a **policy year** in which a final resolution is adopted on the theme. The priority theme for 2009 – 2010 is “Social Integration”. This theme is linked with two other important issues poverty eradication and full employment and decent work for all. For more information see:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/wssd/agreements>  
available in English, French and Spanish.

### What happened at this year's meeting?

During the two weeks, the member States presented statements on the priority theme, Social Integration. Some organizations and NGO's also made oral statements. We have listed below the countries that presented statements where Good Shepherd Sisters are present. Did your country make a Statement?

Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic (on behalf of the European Union /associated countries), Columbia, Ecuador, Egypt, Guatemala, Holy See, India, Indonesia (statement not posted), Italy, Japan, Mexico (on behalf of the Rio Group), Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, Namibia (on behalf of the African Union), Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, South Africa (on behalf of the Southern African Development Community), Sudan, Switzerland, United States, and United Kingdom. To download your countries' Statement go to the following website [http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csd/2009\\_statements.html](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csd/2009_statements.html). English only except where the original statement was presented in the country language.

## What is the Role of Non Government Organizations?

The NGO Committee for Social Development (of which Good Shepherd is a member) meets monthly throughout the year to prepare for the Commission. They study topics, prepare written statements and undertake a number of activities linked with the Commission. A Civil Society Forum Day was held the day before the Commission. The NGO Committee Statement was shared and finalized at this meeting. During the two weeks individual members and groups of NGO's made oral statement and held side events.

Good Shepherd co-signed two written statements supporting a best practice 'neighborhood parliaments' in India and another with regard to the inclusion of persons with HIV AIDS within policies and programs. For further information see:

[http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csd/2009\\_ngostats.html](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csd/2009_ngostats.html).

NGO's attended the sessions, engaged with members of the Commission and organized a range of side events.



Katherine Ward was one of four speakers at one such event. The topic for discussion was Social Integration of Peoples on the Move: Best Practices. (See pictures above)

Each morning there was an NGO Briefing – a time for NGO to discuss the events of the previous day and strategize for the next intervention. Four main areas were addressed within the theme Social Integration - Persons with Disabilities, Youth, Aging and Family Issues. Due to the global economic food, fuel

and climate crisis the emerging theme panel discussion was 'The Global Crises and their Impact on Social Integration'. This panel discussion can be viewed on video on the web site

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/multimedia.html>

## What will happen next year 2010?

The Commission will hold its annual meeting again next year to follow up on the priority theme 'Social Integration'. However, the purpose of next years meeting is for member States to agree upon policies and actions for addressing social integration.

As an NGO with special consultative status we have a responsibility and opportunity to try to influence individual Governments as well as the Commission on social integration issues of concern to us.

## What can you do?

Information is key. At this point we ask you to commit yourself to undertaking the following tasks.

1. Download and study the Statement made by your Government or area e.g. European Union, African Union etc.
2. Check your Government's use/definition of any or all of the following terminologies; social integration, social inclusion, social cohesion, poverty, social exclusion or social justice. Send the definitions and the source document to the GSIJP Office.
3. Contact your government minister, congratulate them on their contribution to the 47<sup>th</sup> Commission and find out what sort of social integration policy he/she is proposing to the 48<sup>th</sup> Commission for Social Development in 2010.
4. Continue to visit the UN website to keep updated on developments regarding the priority theme Social Integration.  
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csd/2009.html>
5. Contribute to **A Good Shepherd Working Perspective on Social Integration/Inclusion**

In preparation for the 2010 meeting of the Commission on Social Development we are beginning the process of drafting a congregational position paper that will form the basis for our Statement. We are of the view that to achieve social integration Governments and NGO's need to address (among other aspects) the following:

- a. Recognise that the dominant causes of social exclusion are not only poverty and unemployment but discrimination and lack of enforced rights
- b. Articulate a vision for a just society where human rights are respected, human dignity is protected, human development is facilitated and the environment is respected and protected.
- c. Place the person at the centre of all policy and programs tackling poverty, social exclusion, discrimination and violation of human rights.
- d. Critically analyse and challenge the main carriers of meaning in society Cultures, Religions, Education and Media and conscientize them to their role and responsibility in creating a socially integrated society.
- e. Develop, implement, evaluate and monitor the outcome of all policy measures, legal instruments and good practices/projects aimed at promoting social integration.
- f. Prioritize with significant financial resources the root causes as well as the consequences of poverty and social exclusion.
- g. Develop a new financial architecture that promotes the complementary relationship between social policy and economic policy, including identifying a range of indicators to measure progress.

Send your comments, contributions, insights and questions to [winifreddoherty@gssweb.org](mailto:winifreddoherty@gssweb.org) with a cc to [shirleyosullivan58@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:shirleyosullivan58@yahoo.co.uk)

6. The NGO Committee for Social Development invites you to respond to a **survey on social integration**. The survey aims to collect experiences, good practices and policy recommendations to be presented to governments and the international community in February 2010 at the policy session of the Commission.

Contact [winifreddoherty@gssweb.org](mailto:winifreddoherty@gssweb.org) for further details

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### 20<sup>th</sup> February Designated The First ever World Day of Social Justice.

“ Recognizing the need to promote efforts to tackle issues such as poverty, exclusion and unemployment, the UN General Assembly has decided to observe February 20 annually – starting in 2009 – as the World Day of Social Justice. It was introduced by the Permanent Mission of Kyrgyzstan and unanimously adopted by the member States of the United Nations during their November 2007 General Assembly meeting. World Social Justice Day was launched on February 10 during the Commission for Social Development and marked with a special panel discussion on February

Mary Robinson, Founder and President, of ‘Realizing Rights’ The Ethical Globalization Initiative and Member of The Elders gave an address on both occasions. Visit this website and read the various statements – both theoretical and practical.

<http://un.org/esa/socdev/social/intldays/IntlJustice/launch10Feb09/index.html>

Were you aware of this day? What did your community, unit or country do? What would you plan for 2010?

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Interns '09: Del Kang (Singapore) and Shirley O' Sullivan (Ireland) attending one of the sessions.

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**Latin America:  
(REAL, Red America Latina)  
REAL JP Meeting-Medellin, Colombia-  
“One Voice of the Land”**

The REAL Justice Peace Contacts gathered in Medellin, Colombia from October 22 to 28, 2008 to review the implementation of regional and unit justice and peace initiative which were planned in 2007 to motivate and invigorate social action on multiple levels within REAL.

The Justice Peace Contacts are:



Back row – left to right [Nelly Leon (Chile-Bolivia) NGO designate to CEPAL ; Monica Cavuzzo; Katherine Ward (JPSM Coordinator in the GSIJP Office); former JP Contact, Graciela Mendez (Argentina-Uruguay) and Marta Iris Lopez (Centro America);  
Front Row: Isabel Chavez (Peru); Marta Villegas, (the unit leader of Venezuela and Coordinator of the Justice Peace Secretariat); Maria Julia Villalba (Brazil-Paraguay); Narcisa de Jesus Vivanco (Ecuador); Catalina Vizcarra (Mexico) and Maria Usma (Medellin)

The JP Contacts discussed ways of strengthening the effectiveness of Good Shepherd presence at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (CEPAL) and at the United Nations, New York through the establishment of the REAL Justice Peace Secretariat and good networking with the Good Shepherd International Justice Peace Office in New York. The participants made a firm commitment to continue

identifying and transforming systems and structures that trap, oppress and enslave women, children and families in poverty and social exclusion using multidimensional approaches.

The spirit of St. Mary Euphrasia was alive and guided the discussions and reflections.

Sr. Ligia Usma, the unit leader of Medellin, Colombia opened the gathering with an inspirational reflection on the statements from both the Contemplative Intercontinental Assembly and the Intercontinental Assembly of the Americas. Sr. Ligia motivated the gathering by describing the charism of Good Shepherd as that of being in solidarity with people living on the fringes of society. Women and children are among the most vulnerable to exploitation, discrimination, violence and degradation and Good Shepherd are truly living as “One Voice of the Land” when acting for systemic and social change. She emphasized the strength that comes from building partnerships in a shared mission with various networks and furthering collaboration with the Good Shepherd International Justice Peace Office.

Each unit presented their plans to strengthen justice and peace activities and to uphold fundamental human rights. Services provided include housing for women and children fleeing domestic violence, job skill development through micro-enterprises and educational programs for children who would otherwise be vulnerable to trafficking and slavery. The JP Contact is active in creating networks, raising awareness and linking these shared experiences to advocacy efforts nationally and regionally.

The discussions identified four main ways to collaborate

- Systemize experiences in the different Good Shepherd ministries.
- Create contact with national JP offices
- Seek professional and financial resources to further enhance the work

- Build upon the justice peace movement strengthened in ICA of the Americas.

Katherine, JPSM Coordinator from the GSIJP Office, N.Y. guided a group discussion exploring “The meaning of Advocacy” An image emerged illustrating that each of the JP Contacts is a “canal” facilitating the flow of information. Just as a canal facilitates the easy passage of people and goods moving from one body of water to the next, the JP Contact guides the flow of information and communication from the local Good Shepherd ministries to the REAL Justice and Peace Secretariat and the GSIJP Office. Further, this movement of people and goods through a canal is not in a single direction, so the JP Contacts also create flows of communication from the REAL Justice Peace Secretariat and the GSIJP Office to the local ministries. This sharing of information creates a more unified approach to transforming unjust systems and structures while maintaining the connection with each woman and child walking through our doors.

The GSIJP Office supports the local JP Contacts through:

- Internship at the GSIJP Office
- Opportunities to engage in UN Commissions
- Communication
- Promoting opportunities for social action

### Important Notice

In 2009, there will be two opportunities for Good Shepherd to speak on migrant issues. The first is the *International Conference on Gender, Migration and Development: Seizing Opportunities, Upholding Women Workers’ Rights*, to be held in Manila, in September. This conference is deliberately scheduled prior to the *2<sup>nd</sup> Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)*, to be held in The Philippines in October.

The GSIJP office requested that Good Shepherd Justice and Peace Contacts in the Asia-Pacific

region select one, two, three or more persons to represent Good Shepherd. Applicants with direct migration service experiences who can grasp the global issues should consider attending. It is an excellent opportunity to share Good Shepherd expertise. We will share more after the Forums.

<http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/lang/en/pid/3>

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/lang/en/pid/3>

<sup>2</sup>To see more on the 2007 Forum:

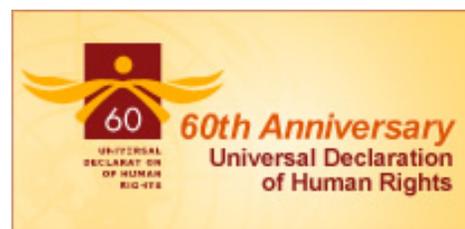
<http://www.gfmd-fmmd.org/>

<sup>3</sup><http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2006/pop945.doc.htm>

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### News from around the world

*Sr Hedwig in Geneva writes ...*



Navi Pilly, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights said “December 10 marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a single short document of 30 articles that has probably had more impact on humankind than any other document in modern history. For the first time all human rights – civil, cultural, economic, political and social - were recognized as belonging inherently to all people, rather than being gifts magnanimously bestowed upon them, or denied to them by design, fact or the whims of ruling regimes. 2009 has been designated the International Year of Human Rights Learning. Are you in your local community, unit or country undertaking any programs? What can you do?”

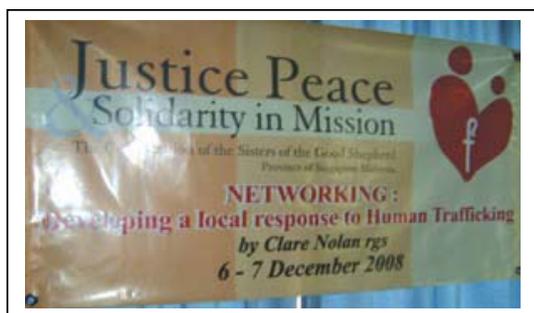
### UPR – Universal Periodic Review.

The UPR was created through a UN General Assembly Resolution 60/251 on March 15, 2006 which established the Human Rights Council itself. It is a cooperative process, which, by

2011, will have reviewed the human rights records of every country. The UPR is one of the key elements of the new Council, which reminds States of their responsibility to fully respect and implement all human rights and fundamental freedoms. 48 states are reviewed each year. Between 2-13 February 2009, the following countries having a Good Shepherd presence reported: Mauritius, Senegal, China, Malaysia Mexico, Canada and Germany. Have a look at the website in the 3 Languages to learn more. <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/>

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**Developing a local response to Human Trafficking ... by Clare Nolan**



A workshop held in Malaysia in December 2008 organized by the Singapore-Malaysia Justice Peace Office. 38 Good Shepherd partners and friends as well as international Good Shepherd Sisters who were in Malaysia at the time attended the training.

Clare Nolan, with international experience in trafficking from her years serving as Good Shepherd NGO representative to the UN, facilitated the workshop and presented on the issue Human Trafficking – a Global Overview Towards Local Responses. She highlighted the linkages between trafficking and the global phenomena of violence against women, feminization of poverty, cultural tolerances to the prostitution of women current economic systems and ancient but still operant patriarchal systems. She defined the importance and practicality of Networking as an effective strategy of

communication and collaboration to address such a complex and entwined phenomenon. Irene Fernandez, founder to the Malaysian NGO, Tenaganita gave a special half-day presentation on the entanglement of migration and trafficking. Visit the website for more ideas.

[http://www.tenaganita.net/index.php?option=com\\_frontpage&Itemid=1](http://www.tenaganita.net/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1)

Irene has published a book, ‘the Revolving Door’, which examines the modern day slavery that refugees and migrant workers are subject to. She examined the dynamics of migration, including national laws, noticing how laws serve to defend the status quo of the powerful at the cost to society of social injustice, inequality and exclusion of the vulnerable. Her presentation of the local situation in Malaysia was people centered, historical and legal, rooted in experiences of victims, and most importantly based in a framework of Human Rights. It is from the Human Rights framework that practices and policies can be challenged while compassionate services are offered.

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 with ECOSOC, UN*

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