Social Development, 46th Session, Full Employment and Decent Work For All:

The Commission, (February 2008) was devoted to employment and decent work for all. Discussions focused on the phenomenon of “jobless growth” - economic growth which does not increase employment levels but increases job insecurity and instability. The link between poverty eradication and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG’s) was highlighted.

Government negotiations were difficult before final resolutions were agreed. The outcome resolutions recall the prime responsibility of the national and international community to:
- create an enabling environment for social and economic development;
- adopt policies and strategies responsive to the needs of women, youth, persons with disabilities, and older persons;
- engage in effective social dialogue with worker’s organizations.

Issues lacking full agreement included the rights of migrant workers, methods of financing, and the right of people to self-determination.

Many points raised by NGO’s were included in the final text. This was a success for NGO efforts to prioritize a “people-centered” approach to economics as well as the important role of employment in poverty eradication.

You can use the Commission documents to advocate at your national government. Look for the Draft Resolution on Promoting Full Employment and Decent Work for All, and the statement made by your government. Compare and contrast the two. If you need further assistance contact the GSIJP Office. I am happy to help. (My contact information on last page).

For more on Social Development, English only go to: http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csd/csocd2008.htm

Status of Women, 52nd Session, Financing for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women:

The (CSW) Commission meets annually for ten working days (February-March 2008). This year a record number of women from around the world attended – over 2,000.

The CSW recognized and addressed many factors that negatively affect women and girls - violation of her human rights and freedoms, the feminization of poverty and the HIV/AIDS pandemic, discrimination and violence.

CSW was devoted to ensuring that the political commitment to women and girls
makes available both the human and financial resources necessary for their empowerment. The agreed conclusions state very clearly that investing in women and girls is the way forward. This commitment must be acted upon by national government. Gender equality and gender mainstreaming are two important concepts to be included in policy and program design at all levels. NGO’s and Civil Society have a role to play in creating this awareness and lobbying at the local and national level.

During the CSW, NGO’s were very active in side events, workshops, caucuses and lobbying national governments to ensure that women’s voices were heard. Good Shepherd was involved in the Working Group on Girls, trafficking and violence against women.


Secretary General Ban Ki Moon used the opening day of the CSW to launch his campaign “Unite to end violence against women”. He said: “Today, we come together to launch a global campaign to end violence against women. I am counting on you - advocates from government, civil society and the UN - to carry our message around the world… There is one universal truth, applicable to all countries, cultures and communities - violence against women is never acceptable, never excusable, never tolerable.” Can he count on Good Shepherd to promote this issue? Website: http://www.un.org/apps/sg/sgstats.asp?nid=3020 (English only) or http://endviolence.un.org/
Women and Migration Today
By Katherine Ward, Int. JPSM Coordinator

The movement of people, and especially women, is not a new phenomenon, but one that requires examination and understanding in our global context. The scale of migration is growing in every country, every day, every week and every year. According to the International Office on Migration (IOM), there are 192 million people living outside their place of birth (1).

The United Nations introduced a framework of examining migration in 2006, with a global forum process as a way to dialogue on themes such as the feminization of migration and human rights stemming from the movement of people (2). The first Global from on Migration and Development (GMFD) was held in Belgium, July, 2007. It allowed for limited NGO participation within the gathering for governments and international organizations. The delegates formally addressed the impact of migration and the national responses to changing demographic and social structures. Two themes raised at the GFMD were gender and human rights. Both these are affected by economic globalization, including social, political, and environmental factors.

Gender and Migration
Women and migration is a priority being addressed by the UN member states and the NGO community. Current migration statistics overlook the impact of women and girls. According to the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), women constitute 49.6% of global migratory flows and up to 80% in some countries (3). Migrating women are noted as major senders and recipients of remittances and are also highly represented in the labor market, in both informal and high skilled sectors. The ongoing efforts of NGO’s to strengthen policies on decent working conditions and to increase gender equity are critical.

Human Rights and Migration
Human rights is another priority theme to come from the GFMD. NGO’s advocate that human rights underpin migration policies of each nation to address socio-economic discrepancies, especially of women. Many people in search of new opportunities to lifting their families out of poverty make the choice to migrate. They require social protections that ensure human dignity.

Good Shepherd and Migration
In 2008, two opportunities are coming for GS people 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 2nd Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), to be held in The Philippines in October.

The GSIJP office requested that GS Justice and Peace Contacts in the Asia-Pacific region help to select one to two persons to represent GS. We seek people in direct service who can grasp the global issues. It is an excellent opportunity to share GS expertise. We will share more after the Forums.

1 http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/lang/en/pid/3
2 To see more on the 2007 Forum: http://www.gfmd-fmmd.org/
3 (English only) http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2006/pop945.doc.htm

CEDAW transferred to Geneva!
By Hedwig Jöhl, GS NGO representative Geneva.

Over the past years, GS national Units have increased submissions of NGO reports to CEDAW, the Convention to
Eliminate all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. The most recent submission was from GS Bolivia in January 2008, the 40th session.

The GSIJP Office encourages all such submissions from GS units, programs, or in collaboration with other national level NGO’s. CEDAW can be a very good way to speak for the voiceless women and girls we serve.

Please note, however, that CEDAW, as a human rights body within the UN system, will now be held primarily in Geneva which is the UN home to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and of the Human Rights Council. This may create some confusion, as some sessions will continue to be held in New York.

If you are not familiar with CEDAW, please consider learning about it and how to use it as a national tool as part of your ongoing formation. If your unit or program is considering a CEDAW submission, it must be done in conjunction with your national government reports.

If you will be submitting a report, please contact Hedwig, GS NGO Rep. in Geneva at: hedwigoehlehl@bluewin.ch
You can find the calendar for CEDAW sessions at the website: http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/index.html

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Good Shepherd internship at the Int. JP Office, UN
by Sr. Zelna Oosthuizen (Good Shepherd intern)

With much joy and exhilarating anticipation, I departed from South Africa for six months, to experience life at the United Nations (UN) through the eyes of the Good Shepherd.

Initiation into all aspects of Good Shepherd International Justice and Peace Office meant explorative discovery, orientation and immediate participation linked with in-depth critical analysis and constructive discussions with Good Shepherd staff and other NGO’s. I found that the grassroots experiences of Good Shepherd people are highly valued among NGO’s and Government delegates in efforts to create person-centered polices.

By attending commissions, conventions, forums, committees, sub-committees, panel events, prayer events and social events, I experienced how Good Shepherd lobbies on issues related to women, the girl-child, trafficking, migration, social development and indigenous people with various government delegations to bring about policies and action plans. Agreed documents can be used at national and grassroots level to give credibility and strength when we are speaking for the specific needs in our direct services.

During all my activities I had the opportunity to meet and network with various people that are important international collaborators with Good Shepherd people.


When I met Mrs. Ban Soon-taek (wife of Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon) I experienced a
presence of peace and contemplation, which our world desperately needs. The African delegates energized me because they expressed the cry of the poor with openness and determination, especially for women and children.

Thanks to the congregation, my South African sector, and Winfred, Katherine and Clare at the Int. GS JP office for this experience.

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**Forum on Human Trafficking**
*By Hedwig Jöh, GS NGO Rep. to Geneva*

Hedwig Jöh from the Geneva GS NGO office and Martina Ernst from Germany attended The Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking (13-15 February) sponsored by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna.

The Opening session of the Forum on Human Trafficking introduced the themes of Vulnerability, Impact, and Action, and made links between trafficking, security, development, and human rights.

As GS we know that Trafficking in persons is a growing problem. The forum identified contributing factors in becoming a trafficker. It was pointed out that former victims and women sometimes become traffickers. Diverse “social partners” who have taken concrete steps to address issues of forced labour and trafficking were present. The forum discussed innovative practices and the importance of partnership in combating human trafficking. As participants GS took advantage of the Forum’s Special Events: the Role of Women Leaders, Youth, the Arts, Virtual Forum, the Private Sector and the Religious Community in the Fight against Human Trafficking.


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**Events and Resources:**
*For awareness and local involvement*

**Sexual Exploitation:**
3rd World Congress against Commercial Child Sexual Exploitation, Brazil, late in 2008:
*For information: [http://www.ecpat.net/World_Congress/index.html](http://www.ecpat.net/World_Congress/index.html) (links to all languages)*

**Sexual Exploitation:**
Education Campaign, launched by the NGO, UNANIMA to stop the DEMAND for human trafficking. Materials, available in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese, include a CD Rom, posters, prayer services, action suggestions.

To obtain materials go directly to the UNANÍA web site. [www.unanima-international.org](http://www.unanima-international.org) : Stop the Demand for Trafficking in Women and Children, (link to all languages)

Or/ contact the GS office gsjipoffice@gssweb.org

**Economic Gender Justice:**
Finance for Development, UN conference to be held in Doha, Qatar, November- December 2008.

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**Around the World - GS Notes:**

**From Ireland, Ruhama Project:**
GS Geradine Rowley was a recent spokesperson for the anti-trafficking, anti-prostitution advocacy, led by Ruhama. The project calls on the Government to learn from laws passed in Sweden which criminalizes those who buy sex. Geradine is quoted: "We believe that Ireland needs to send out a clear message that the purchasing of women for sexual services is a crime… Ireland needs to take a stand against organized crime and having the correct legislation in place is crucial to achieving this."
*See: Ruhama [http://ruhama.ie/index.php](http://ruhama.ie/index.php) (link to all languages)*

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From Angers, GS motherhouse, International Women’s Day, submitted by Sr. Tarcila, Spirituality Center:

There is a group who regularly uses our Chapel for a Prayer Service on the International Day for Women. This year, they are here with us today, March 7. After the prayer, there is a collection taken. This year, money will support Guyana.

From Sri Lanka, International Women’s Day, submitted by Sr Immaculate de Alwis:

On Women’s Day 2008 our GS team working in the Free Trade Zone planned a day-long celebration to entertain 400 - 500 women workers of the zone. This is an outgrowth of a Convention on "Our Struggles and Dreams for Peace" organized by the Inter-congregational Women’s Desk that represents 13 congregations. We are creating a 'Network for Peace' whose objective is to form a spiritual force to counteract the evil of war and violence prevalent in the country. Our efforts plan to influence politicians, the military and the grassroots. Sincere reconciliation among our people of all races and religions must grow even after the war is stopped. Please pray for us, for the task is big and we are very small.

From Syria, linking to EU, notes from Sr Claude Nadaff: In February, GS Claude Nadaff who responds to needs of Iraqi refugees in Syria, traveled with a delegation to Brussels to advocate a stronger international responses on behalf of refugees. The delegation had two days of meetings with parliamentarians, national associations, and NGO’s. At the European Commission, they begged EU Countries to open their doors to welcome the most vulnerable women who are exposed to daily troubles and suffering. In the end it was very hard to assess any positive response to this humanitarian need.

From US, Handcrafting Justice:

Maureen McGowan of GS economic justice program – Handcrafting Justice – was part of a panel sponsored by the Holy See during the UN Commission on the Status of Women. Maureen’s topic “From Poverty to Empowerment” was one of four: Catholic social teaching, political & economic policy and women’s participation in Fair Trade.

From Kenya, Catherine Mutindi, JP Contact

Despite all [the turmoil and violence in Kenya], we managed to celebrate International Women’s Day. Activities included a seminar on trafficking, various games, sports and recreational events, celebration of the Eucharist, praying for women throughout the world and animation of local church women groups. I gave a homily for women in our parish in Nairobi - this was very effective, given that during the post-election violence, women have been the worst affected. Now they are asking for input on gender in small groups. We were united with all in recalling and celebrating woman’s gift and story; the women that we are and those with whom we share the compassion and reconciliation of the Good Shepherd.

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Original in English:

Please distribute to all communities, programs and Good Shepherd Friends in your province. Thank you.

The Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd is an NGO in special consultative status, ECOSOC, UN

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