From Australia to Jordan, global, regional and national events are taking place in all corners of the globe in the lead up to the 20-year anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+20). Join us, picture a world where gender equality is a reality for every woman and girl.


Source: https://beijing20.unwomen.org/en

Mission Statement:

The Platform for Action is an agenda for women’s empowerment. It aims at accelerating the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and at removing all the obstacles to women’s active participation in all spheres of public and private life, through a full and equal share in economic, social, cultural and political decision-making. This means that the principle of shared power and responsibility should be established between women and men at home, in the workplace and in the wider national and international communities. Equality between women and men is a matter of human rights and a condition for social justice, and is also a necessary and fundamental prerequisite for equality, development and peace. A transformed partnership based on equality between women and men is a condition for people-centered sustainable development. A sustained and long-term commitment is essential, so that women and men can work together for themselves, for their children and for society, to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century.

Go to the link: Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action-Fourth World Conference on Women

A Practical Guide for Civil Society

The Guide aims primarily to assist Civil Society Actors who are not yet familiar with the UN human rights system. Its development has been enriched from the outset by input and advice from diverse Civil Society Actors.

Go to the following link:

CIVIL SOCIETY SPACE AND THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS SYSTEM

The document is available at the Good Shepherd Justice Peace Website- United Nations Human Rights in the following link:

I was working as a representative at the UN, ESCAP in Bangkok from 2010-2013. Now, I am working with children in Nongkhai, Thailand focusing on education for our children living in great poverty. I am the JP. Contact for the Thailand Sector.

I had a chance to be with the NGO CSW New York team in Bangkok for advocacy training for Gender Equality and Women's Rights. This week the UN ESCAP was reviewing Beijing+20. I hope the below information is of interest to you.

**SOGI, climate change, and feminist organizations featured in discussions**

The Asian and Pacific Conference on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Beijing+20 Review in Bangkok began today. Governments from the Asia and Pacific will listen to issues related to women's equality and the empowerment of women for the next four days. At the end of the Conference, States' pledges and priority areas for investment for the next five years will be included in a final ministerial declaration that will also serve as the regional input into the global review process dialogue to be held in 2015 at the 59th Session on the Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW).

The Conference Secretariat opened the ceremony with statements by UN Women's representative, Roberta Clarke, Shun-ichi Murata, Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP, and the Thailand Minister for Social Development and Human Securities, Adul Saensingkaew. Eni Lestari Andayani, represented the civil society organizations.

Among other things, Andayani highlighted the need for accountability. "Accountability means that the least powerful amongst us are able to hold the most powerful to account for their actions," she said. The civil society representative cited the key areas of concern that continue to impact on women's human rights: women's sexual rights, an increased militarism, fundamentalism, and extremism, and the injustice of the current development model. "Development justice requires transformative, redistributive, economic, environmental, gender, sexual, and social justice," Andayani added.

In the afternoon States debated the draft of the ministerial outcomes document. These are some of the highlights:

- The Philippines and the Pacific Island countries asked to include specific categories for protection under the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women including sex, migration status, ethnicity, and marital status.
- Russia asked for an explanation on the difference between "sex and gender", when the word sex was included as a separate category by Fiji.
- The Pacific Island countries suggested language regarding indigenous people.
- Cambodia proposed including the protection on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) with regards to gender-based discrimination, which was supported by a number of states including Australia, Fiji, Palau, Cook Islands, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste, Tuvalu, and France. It faced opposition from Iran, Pakistan, Russia, Indonesia, Bangladesh.
- Indonesia asked for the inclusion of women's studies centers and academics, while Tonga included feminist organizations in the realization of equality & empowerment recognition for their contribution to women's human rights.
- States debated on the issue of "various forms of the family."
- Philippines and the Pacific Islands included language on climate change and climate justice.

On issues related to the discrimination faced by women and girls in the exclusion from ownership of land and other assets and access to finance, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Australia, Maldives, and Palau added diverse women, women heads of household, divorced women, vulnerable groups of women and girls, widowed women, unmarried women, and internally displaced (IDP) women, to reflect the diverse needs of women.

**For more information:**
- Read the CSO Statement
- Read the statements delivered by the CSO during the plenary
- Listen to the podcasts from the CSO Forum

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**THE UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL COMMISSIONS**

- **ECE:** Economic Commission for Europe
- **ESCAP:** Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
- **ECLAC:** Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
- **ESWCA:** Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Region
- **ECA:** Economic Commission for Africa
It is not easy to access professional development in the remote mining area of Kolwezi DRC, where GS ministries are newly flourishing with a staff of almost 40 persons. But ever-resourceful and in keeping with the spirit of St. Mary Euphrasia’s embrace of modern methods to carry the mission, staff of GS Kolwezi have continued their development, not only through the use of the onsite and distance resources of MDO and GSJP Training but, most recently, by succeeding at e-learning.

The Child Protection Officer of Good Shepherd Kolwezi, Mathieu Bansza, is a young man with varied professional experiences. Since 2013 Mathieu has energetically received the vision and mission of GS. He met early with JP to focus staff needs when I visited in Feb 2014; he has continued to work face to face and through distance communication to develop his role and ensure that all staff understand child protection, child abuse and appropriate interventions. Mathieu develops & delivers regular training to staff and families as he oversees the reporting of abuse situations.

Child protection work is intense and the need for continuous learning is evident, both in on-the-ground situations and in advocacy needs. Exploring resources suggested by the GSIJPO, Mathieu has recently completed a certificate in UNICEF internet online learning. We congratulate Mathieu and I asked him about his experience of e-learning.

Mathieu says the training was good but at first it was overwhelming. He thought it would take months to complete all the modules. He seemed relieved to find that material was presented in multiple choice questions. Still he was required to do research and keep notes of new theories that were presented. As he did research and made the material his own, he gained confidence. He did not mention how intermittent electricity and internet access complicated the project! He also was not satisfied with just “passing”; he reviewed and studied the material until he attained near perfect scores, moving from module to module and adjusting his efficiency as he grew in expertise. He refers to the process as climbing a hill. But he found the certificate achieved worth it.

Mathieu describes how his learning connects to his work: “I got more materials, new theories, reminders of old materials already known. I feel proud of being a legal expert with a UNICEF certificate.”

You can go to GS International website, JP section, Training resources: [http://www.buonpastoreint.org/jp-en/recursos/on-line-resources-for-capcity-building](http://www.buonpastoreint.org/jp-en/recursos/on-line-resources-for-capcity-building) to find other JP capacity building resources.

Some useful links


**Global Coalition for Social Protection Floor:** We believe social protection floors can have a transformative role in contributing to long-term inclusive and sustainable growth while also enhancing resilience against natural and manmade disasters, as well as economic and social crises. Go to the following link: [http://www.socialprotectionfloorscoalition.org/](http://www.socialprotectionfloorscoalition.org/)

For the first time in history, leaders of the world’s largest religions have come together. Their goal is to end slavery. We can be the generation that ends slavery. Go to the following link to sign: [http://www.globalfreedomnetwork.org/declaration/](http://www.globalfreedomnetwork.org/declaration/)

And Remember the **CSW 59th session 9-20 March 2015**
Embrace the World

February 2015, # 41

An End to Human Trafficking: No longer keep silence! By Georgette Tannoury, NGO Designate ESCWA, Beirut, Lebanon

Slavery, a true crime, is today condemned by international law. However, today it takes new and multiple forms, when "millions of people are forced to live in inhumane conditions." Pope Francis continues to talk about and even lists a number of situations. Each of us is witness to what happens every day. We can no longer remain silent...many questions can arise: What will happen to our humanity? Will we treat people as objects? What are the causes?

Think about the first of these causes, Poverty: victims of trafficking - are they not people who have sought to get out of a situation of extreme precariousness? From an unfair economic system or terrorism? Etc... Living with this heavy suffering in our mission every day, we have chosen to work at our level, on the prevention of trafficking.

We share with you a few examples: every day we receive in our Health Centre, a considerable number of women refugees who have been forced to leave: country, parents, friends, homes, etc... Huge needs exist, which we try to answer, but with limited means. We are convinced that supporting women, helping them become aware of the dangers threatening their lives and their families, to stand up despite the many challenges ...this can avoid other troubles. We have a series of meetings with women; each of them has a different subject. This week, it was about human trafficking: A professional with a clear mind and well prepared in the subject, came to help the Group of 46 women to be aware and vigilant of the dangers threatening them. "You are not alone," said the presenter, "we are here to help you in case of need." The Sisters of the Good Shepherd are always ready to defend you. Be vigilant, families who live in the same house with others... children who sleep together...Yes, you are no longer in the village where the security and good intentions prevail..."

The conversation was lively, women did not hesitate to ask questions and talk about their dangerous and vulnerable situation. Fifty children are now exercising their right to be educated, to not stay in the street. Many of these girls have enrolled for the first time. They are happy learning to read and write.

Some words of the Presenter:
Friday was an amazing experience, given that I’m used to raising awareness among the Lebanese society, but I’ve never had the chance to meet refugees and speak with them about this emerging tragedy: “Human Trafficking”.
I wanted to start with a video, but the lack of electricity didn’t allow us to do so. Nevertheless, we had a round table discussion with all the Iraqi women, and I believe it was a successful session.

I began with an introduction where I asked each woman to state her name, her marital status and how many kids she had. I started by explaining that we were gathered to open our eyes more about a crime that is growing exponentially around the world and in our community, and I emphasized that there is not one city or suburb that is immune to it. It is called, human trafficking or modern day slavery.

Some were wondering what trafficking is, and others had an idea or had heard about it. I told them that I find it shocking that people don’t know a lot about it, because it’s an international problem that affects millions and millions of people, and has far-reaching implications for communities everywhere. They didn’t believe that this could be happening around us! I expressed to them that we couldn’t be more wrong, slave traffickers around the world have rediscovered how profitable it is to buy and sell people. So I asked them how much do you think a human being is worth? And I highlighted that a human being is priceless and is a sacred soul and body that cannot be sold nor purchased.

Since we live in Lebanon, females are the most targeted, and so I explained to them that each one of these girls could have been their sister, their mother, their best friend, or even themselves! None of these victims would last more than 4-5 years after being trafficked. Each one of them would have been worked to death as a sex slave in a brothel, murdered for an infraction of their master’s rules, or contracted hepatitis or Aids, or murdered to harvest their organs. Hence, if trafficking didn’t affect them, I insisted that they shouldn’t wait for it to affect them directly to decide to speak up about it, but rather, being aware and spreading the word is their weapon to fight this tragedy.

I proceeded to explain that there are several types of trafficking:
1. Modern day slavery (work-based)
2. Organ trafficking
3. Sex trafficking (most common)

I explained all forms of human trafficking separately and opened the floor for their comments and questions. I then explained how they can protect themselves and families, what should they do if they were trafficked and how to prevent trafficking by spreading awareness or by becoming an organ donor at the NOOTDT in Lebanon and asked them to tell young men to refrain from visiting prostitution services, since most of the girls are victims of sexual trafficking.

We spoke about various issues, but I cannot summarize them all. So I hope this answers your question and gives you some insight about our session.

They were minimal examples of so much suffering and inquiries! But the Word of God is more than ever current: "Where is your brother?"

Thank you John Eudes and Marie Euphrasie for the wonderful charisma that energizes us!
Every year in January, Archbishop Silvano Tomasi, Nuncio to the UN in Geneva, issues an invitation to an Interreligious celebration during the week of 18-25 January, for the Unity of Christianity.

Representatives from different Missions and Churches, NGOs and Civil Societies are welcomed.

The theme every year is the message from the Pope regarding the World Day of Peace. And the different Churches present in Geneva are invited to speak to this message. This year it was: "No longer slaves, but brothers and sisters", from Pope Francis.

I would like to share some thoughts:

Monsignor Richard Gyhra, First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Holy See to the UN, opened the Celebration in the name of Archbishop Silvano Tomasi. He said, that the theme of this year's message encapsulates Pope Francis' concern of contemporary forms of slavery, an "abominable phenomenon, which leads to contempt for the fundamental rights of others and to the suppression of their freedom and dignity."

The second speaker was Dr. Bhante Dhammika Tawalama, responsible monk of the Geneva International Buddist Centre. He quoted the first article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights." As human beings, we are all similar at birth and at death. It is only in the intermediate that we have some differences. He asked the question: "Have we become slaves of consumption? A simple and modest life can also bring happiness and fulfillment."

Next Statement was from Rabbi François Garaï. He said: "We must go back to the chapter called by Christians 'The Fall', or 'Acceptance of the Law' by Jews. When Adam and Eve ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and bad, they realized that they had the capacity to listen to the voice of God, or to ignore it completely. But," he said: "It is always possible to choose God, He who is, according to Tradition, a liberating master, even if this seems contradictory. The outing of Adam and Eve from paradise is the entrance into the world of responsibility..."

Next speaker was Mahdi Tonnerieux, Imam at the Cultural Islamic Foundation of Geneva. He quoted Mohammed – peace and blessings upon him – many times. "Allah – praised be him – said: 'On the Day of Resurrection, I shall be the adversary of...the person who sells a free man and profits from this money'..." And I made my own interpretation in connection with Pope Francis' concern of contemporary forms of slavery.

After the Imam spoke, the Metropolite Jérémie of Switzerland from the Orthodox Centre of The Ecumenical Patriarcate, said: "We address a fervent prayer to God for the demolition of the burden of slavery, for the implementation of Human Rights..."

Next speaker was the Pastor Emmanuel Fuchs, President of the Protestant Church of Geneva. He refered to the question asked to Cain: "Where is your brother?" And he associates with Pope Francis the idea of a new worldwide solidarity and fraternity. And he added: "This maybe does not depend only on us, but it certainly begins with us".

Last speaker was Pierre Farine, Geneva’s Auxiliary Bishop. He said: "Adam teaches us the wonder of meeting the other...He calls for fraternity, not as a given, but as a journey of humanity." We treat man as an object that we can manipulate as we wish. He affirms that the central problem is not outside ourselves, but inside of us.

What a wonderful Bouquet of sharing in our interreligious celebration – that was my joyful thought on the way home.★★★

VISIT THE GENEVA OFFICE AT THE JUSTICE PEACE WEBSITE!!!

Exceptional time for Women-Lebanon

Both public and private sector scored well during those 16 days in Lebanon. Is it because the suffering is great or awareness has reached all hearts and ears? The different television channels aired special programs. Example: on a channel, every evening during the news, Zalfa explains one of the different rights of women (and this during the 16 days). Many local and international NGOs were very active in performing various activities, such as: roundtables, theatre, films, demonstrations, conferences, etc... Some schools have marked the first day. Two Young students at the college have made a film of 15 minutes (so successful) and now this film travels to groups of the young especially. For us Sisters of the Good Shepherd, the ideas have in been highlighted in our various missions.

It would be quite long to write down everything that has been achieved. We will just give you an example of our Medical-Social Center, which welcomes an average of 120 persons per day, most of the refugees, women and children. A series of meetings was organized for women who many coming each time (34 to 42 women). The subjects were varied, such as: rights of women - dignity of women - role of women etc... The presenters also were not the same. We continue to work for more rights, for justice and hope.

Good Shepherd Sisters and Mission Partners in Huancayo-Peru supported the 16 Days of Activism against GENDER VIOLENCE - Orange your Neighborhood Global Campaign to END VAW November 25 to December 10 International Human Rights Day!

Go to the link to see the video:  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ewaQZ0f2Gaw

EQUALITY NOW : http://www.equalitynow.org/
Good Shepherd sisters and mission partners in the Province of South-West India supported the 16 days of Activism against Gender Violence - Orange your Neighborhood Global Campaign to END VAW November 25 to December 10 (International Human Rights Day). It highlighted the theme of ‘stop child abuse, violence and atrocities against women’. Over one thousand students took part in the rally around the city carrying placards and shouting various slogans against child abuse and the need to respect human rights. They had orange flags and wore orange sashes and caps indicating the theme ‘orange your neighborhood’. The colorful and meaningful rally brought a good impact all over the city. It was published in the local newspapers and TV channels.

Good Shepherd Sisters in Indonesia supported the 16 days of Activism Against Gender Violence from November 25 to December 10 International Human Rights Day. In the Picture: about 200 School Children, Partners and people of Ruteng, district of Manggarai. In this moment all of them make sign to Stop Violence against Women.

Good Shepherd Sisters in Saipan with Light and Salt Charismatic Community, prayer group working for Peace and Justice and against violence.

Visit the regularly updated Good Shepherd JP website for news, events, JP training resources, and so on. Go to: [http://www.buonpastoreint.org/jp-en](http://www.buonpastoreint.org/jp-en)

**Editor’s Note:**
“Embrace the World” can be published, thanks to each of your contributions with articles, stories and other news concerning justice peace issues in the world-wide Good Shepherd Congregation. We continue to count on you for the next editions of the journal. Share with us your activities, news and events in your Units and countries. I take the opportunity to say thanks to all who were helping with translations and proof reading and especially to those who sent articles for this edition of February 2015.

“We commit ourselves to work zealously with women and children, especially those who are trafficked, forced to migrate or oppressed by abject poverty.”

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Please distribute to all communities, programs, and Good Shepherd Partners in your Unit.

Thank you