



Embrace the World

A journal of Congregational justice issues prepared by:
The Good Shepherd International Justice Peace Office

October 2011, # 31

Welcome to # 31 of Embrace the World! In this edition there is much to read about activities and networking of GS across the globe. I hope these small glimpses of action may inspire you as they do the International JP team. Let me hear what you are doing. As I would love to include it in a future edition. Yolanda Sanchez, JP Communication Coordinator.

Action around the World: Good Shepherd Priority Areas

Prostitution / Trafficking and Networks:

Geradine Rowley shares information about **Turn Off the Red Light** campaign in Ireland, of which Ruhama, along with a large alliance of NGOs, is an active member. The aim of the campaign is to end prostitution and sex trafficking in Ireland. The strategy is for civil society to call on the Irish Government to pass in legislation that will criminalize the buyers, similar to the Swedish model. The campaign currently has the backing of a number of politicians.

More information: <http://www.turnofftheredlight.ie/>

Also see: www.ruhama.ie

Migration Advocacy, Speaking for the Voiceless in Malaysia:

In May 2011 the governments of Australia and Malaysia worked toward a bilateral Asylum Seeker exchange agreement. Such an agreement would be detrimental to the Human Rights of Asylum seekers across the Asia-Pacific region. GS Malaysia has endorsed statements put forth by co-NGOs; they use the standards of the 1951 UN Refugee Convention



to condemn the governments' dereliction of their responsibility to the most vulnerable in their societies.

See Asia Pacific Blog for more information:

<http://apjpnetwork.wordpress.com/>

Ecological Justice, GS Australia New Zealand (GANZ) takes a stand:

In May 2011, GANZ has let us know that they have adapted the Good Shepherd International Ecological Justice Position Paper to reflect their local ecological concerns. Along with comprehensive analysis, they include actions that they will take to mitigate environmental destruction. In addition, they have promulgated a statement supporting current government action to price carbon pollution beginning 2012. The statement is called the "Price on Pollution."



More information:

<http://www.goodshepherd.com.au/justice/view.aspx?PageId=justice/publications/lifeandjustice.aspx&AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>

Tunnels of Today Meet Roots in Angers

Adapted from article honoring 20 years of service,
Good Shepherd Services

Sometimes Justice calls for extraordinary and prophetic action; sometimes it is the quiet day-



to-day walking beside the most forgotten, the most downtrodden, to let them know they are a part of our common humanity.

Twenty years of daily walking in urban

ministry with Good Shepherd Services in New York, Sister Kathleen (Katie) Duggan gives witness as a true follower of the creative audacity of SME and the congregational call to justice. No obstacle prevents Kathleen from reaching out to youth and parents who others are content to avoid. From rooftops to street corners, Kathleen stands up for the rights of youth and families, who instinctively know the honesty of her warm heart and personal words.

In the past year Kathleen visited Angers for the first time, and the tunnel built by SME that she heard so often about, became real. Not some relic of the late 1800's, this tunnel was, for her, the expression of obstacles overcome in the 21st century. Placing a wounded youth into a loving family and providing support for the family, visiting distant mental hospitals so that a youth would not be totally alone or forgotten on a long weekend, trudging through the rain to find and deliver a special toy to a child who deserved recognition of progress and growth - these are just some of the tunnels that Kathleen has walked through. She practices professional social work and finds ways to include the most forgotten in her embrace. The tunnel in Angers was just a reminder that every day, as stated in our 2009 Chapter directions, so many Good Shepherd people like herself respond to the anguish of the world that calls us to the margins where God is waiting for us.



Network in Action: RIMOA

(GS African Middle East Network) by Clare Nolan

In August 2011, about 50 members of RIMOA, including Unit leaders, met in Nairobi Kenya for part two of a workshop on Participative Leadership. One day was spent in common social action. Enabled by a donation from the New York Unit, the RIMOA group purchased food basics, loaded

up a bus, and delivered the food to two camps for IDP, Internally Displaced Persons. The communities receiving the food invited us into their tent-homes and told us of their experiences, which is a life without the basics of food, shelter, clothing or education. Nevertheless they shared joy and gratitude, and demonstrated their organizational skills and leadership that supports each person's dignity.



Later in the workshop, as we dealt with topics of Networking and GS international JP structures, several members took the opportunity to participate in an international campaign to promote social protection, protections that those in the camps do not have. Sisters stood in line at the computer and, in turn, at the Social Protection Floor Initiative petition, signed their name, linking direct action and advocacy. There was a cheer as each one submitted their name! The Social Protection campaign is supported by UN agencies, international NGOs, and development partners. Winifred Doherty has been an active initiator in promoting this petition through GS NGO work.

The RIMOA web is growing in strength through mutual learning, joint social action, and participation in GS International activities.

You can participate in strengthening the voice for social protection.

CAMPAIGN "THE SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOOR INITIATIVE"
This action is your personal action to Eradicate Poverty. Sign today!
<http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/signature-campaign-social-protection-floor.html>

Shelter in Kuala Lumpur for migrant women

By Wilhelmina Mowe, the Assistant Director of PKGS, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

In 2009, in answer to the cries of 13 Myanmar women who had been trafficked for labour Pusat Kebajikan Good Shepherd (Good Shepherd Welfare Centre) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia started a temporary shelter for trafficked women. Since then, this temporary shelter has provided refuge for other migrant women who have been trafficked or experiencing gender based violence. In March this year PKGS converted its temporary shelter to a permanent programme.

What were we thinking of when we said “yes”



to the opening of our doors to the women last March 2011? We certainly did not expect to see 39 women coming through our doors!. We certainly did not expect to hear the horrifying story of the woman who was raped when she sought help from a stranger she met after running away from her abusive employer. We certainly did not expect to journey with the woman who was so badly beaten up that she forgot how to speak in her own language.

Each day we struggle with the demands of the women who come to us, sometimes so traumatized that a simple touch on the hand makes them flinch. Each day we laugh with the women who are able to find joy in sewing a simple skirt for themselves. Each day we are amazed by women who are able to say they forgive their abusers.

We have seen how these women change in the short period of time that they are sheltered with us. The easiness in the relationships built with us and the trust that they have shown, has been exceedingly rewarding.

We were told that there are about 30,000 Cambodian women working in Malaysia. We

are told that 70% of women returning home are happy and rewarded for their work done here. What we are not told is how many are abused and how many have died. In the recent case of the woman found dead outside her employer's house, not a word was whispered in the local newspapers.

Many women do not report the abuses they suffer nor do they attempt to run away, as they do not have the capacity to do so. Many are repressed by their agents and many are ashamed. Statistics make no mention of these women.

Did we do the right thing in opening our doors and did we do right by the women?. We hope that we have, as we know the choice was not made by us, but for us.

GS Indonesia: Advocacy for Migrants

From information sent by Cecilia Supriyati, Coordinator, GS Services for Women and Children

Good Shepherd Services for Women and Children (Pusat Pelayanan Gembala Baik untuk Perempuan dan Anak) in Indonesia sees systemic discrimination every day, as they provide direct services to migrants. To support changes in the system, they contributed a document, August 2011, to be used in the Day of General Discussion (DGD) on Undocumented Migrant Workers. The DGD is a human rights process in which NGOs collaborate with each other, so their voices can bring greater justice.

Based on their experience of providing preventives services, shelter, and outreach to migrants, a ten-point paper describes the immediate need for protection of undocumented workers and members of their families. Among the ten points listed, GS notes that:

- ✓ Documents are taken from migrants by employers;
- ✓ Undocumented Indonesian workers in Malaysia are subject to imprisonment, and torture;
- ✓ Migrant workers and their families pay excessive price for simple medical services in Malaysian Hospitals;
- ✓ Family members face separation;
- ✓ Hundreds of undocumented migrant workers show symptoms of mental disturbance upon their return home.

By sharing their findings, in collaboration with Migrants Rights International, GS is a clear advocate for the Rights of Migrants, linking their direct service to the call for change in unjust systems and structures.

You can see the full statement on the GS APJP blog, go to:

<http://apjpnetwork.wordpress.com/2011/08/23/good-shepherd-sisters-and-lay-in-indonesia-statement-of-support-for>

Unit Leaders in Latin America (REAL) Focus on Justice

By Sr. Susana Franco - Coordinator of REAL

Unit Leaders from Latin America-Caribbean had two special days in July in Bogota Colombia, with the GSIJP team to learn more about the work of the Justice and the structures of the congregation. We received information about the GS NGO at the United Nations in New York, Geneva and Vienna. We met with the NGO Regional Designates in the UN offices in Addis Ababa, Beirut, Bangkok and



Santiago and discussed their roles. The CLT joined us for parts of the meetings and supported our desire to be more active as a region.

It was an exciting opportunity to better understand the roles of both, the regional persons and the GSIJP team. We valued and admired the work of each one and we can say that they inflamed us with boldness and the courage to commit ourselves more deeply to the work of Justice and Peace. We received a good formation empowering us to be more connected with justice activities. We have already planned a regional training session with Clare Nolan for all JP contacts and their Teams, together with the Provincial Leaders of Latin America and the Caribbean. This will be in Quito, Ecuador in July, 2012.

We now have a new awareness of the urgent need to commit ourselves to work in networks, so as to build a more egalitarian world, focused on people where the structures and systems are at the service of human dignity.

New liaisons for GSIJPO are Sr. Clemencia Rivera (Ecuador) and Sr. Leticia Cortes (Mexico). Sr. Marta Iris Lopez represents Latin America at the regional UN Regional Economic Commission, ECLAC

Learning more
about...

UN REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

CEPAL (ECLAC)- *Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.*
<http://www.eclac.org/>

UN ESCAP- *Economic and Social Commission Asia Pacific:* <http://www.unescap.org/>

UN ESCWA - *Economic and Social Commission Western Asia:*
<http://www.escwa.un.org/index.asp>

UN ECA - *Economic Commission Africa:*
<http://www.unece.org/index.htm>

UN ECE- *Economic Commission Europe:*
<http://www.unece.org/Welcome.html>

Networks across the Globe Advocate on Trafficking

By Clare Nolan

Australia:

The Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans, ACRATH, made its 5th annual pilgrimage to the national capital in August 2011. A dozen religious women spread out across Parliament to organize, advocate, lobby, visit embassies and develop partnerships. The intense activity was designed to improve national policies related especially to prevention of Trafficking and protection of victims of trafficking.



ACRATH targeted specific issues, such as the inadequate shelter for victims as they await the trial of the trafficker. ACRATH asked that the government provide safe, secure, affordable and supportive accommodation for trafficked people. Likewise, ACRATH asked the government to promote trafficking prevention through Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) by ensuring that Australia's contribution reaches 0.5% of the gross national income by 2015 and 0.7% by 2020. They also urged that ODA support girls' education and that budget allocations be fully transparent.

The Advocates of ACRATH believe they raised awareness among Members of Parliament. This was affirmed by comments made by Parliamentary advisors such as one who said, "You have worked hard, seen many people and have been organized in what you had to say. You may not get all you want but you will get results."

ACRATH added strength through media action and press release. For more on ACRATH, of which GS is a member, see the website: www.acrath.org.au

Europe:

A 5-day conference entitled *Human Trafficking – When We Hear the Cry...* is taking place in Poland, Sept 2011. It is sponsored by RENATE, Religious in Europe Networking against Trafficking and Exploitation, an active Network since 2009, of which GS is part.

The goal of the Conference is to meet, interact with and learn from experiences of religious engaged in counter-trafficking work across Europe, with an effort to reach further into Eastern Europe.

GS sisters in grass roots, working in both Albania and France, will participate in the conference. Also, Melitta Fragner, who represents GS at the UN anti-trafficking office in Vienna, will be networking, learning, and offering her expertise to the network. Sr. Marie Helene Halligon's represents GS in RENATE and has been an active member of the conference planning team.



European Conference for Religious
4 – 9 September 2011, Trzebinia Poland
Human Trafficking – 'When we hear the cry....'
our joint mission today

The mission statement of RENATE reads, in part: "We are sent by Christ to take a prophetic stance against the evil of trafficking and the exploitation of human persons. We commit ourselves to putting all our passion for humanity into this work."

See website: <http://www.renate-europe.net/index.php>

UN INTERNATIONAL DAYS

- 15 October [International Day of Rural Women](#)
- 17 October [International Day for the Eradication of Poverty](#)
- 20 November [Universal Children's Day](#)
- 25 November [International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women](#)

Human Trafficking Links with Justice Sessions in Myanmar

By Sr. Goretti Lwin, JP Contact, Myanmar

On August 18th, a team of Justice Peace link-persons from various communities in Myanmar, gathered in Yangon. They were Srs. Agnes, Goretti, Valentina, Magdalyn, Assumpta, Felix and Lay Partner Rita San. The JP Contact Person, Ms. Gloria Bon, from Singapore-Malaysia, facilitated the meetings.

After the opening prayer each person shared what Justice Peace meant to them. Some responses included:

- *“Just Love” “...do to no one what you do not want others to do to you...”
- *...expressing the goodness of God to Everybody...
- *Co-existence with others and environment...
- * Be aware of justice to self and others...



The group continued by connecting the elements of Justice Peace in their present ministries. Responses included:

- *The joyful presence with the community in which we live...
- * Stand and speak for the voiceless, the neglected and marginalized...
- *Networking at grass root level...
- *Dialogue between those working at grass root level and authority...
- *Give people a place to study, and gather as a community...
- *Care for the earth - working together with people and children to protect and respect the environment by growing plants, cleaning, recycling...

Truly impressed by Enthusiasm!

By Ms. Gloria Bon, JP Contact Person Singapore-Malaysia

When I met Sr. Goretti, JP Contact Person of Myanmar, at the Capacity Building Training Workshop (CBTW) in Kuala Lumpur, I informed her that I would be on a visit to Yangon and would like to spend a day with her. Not only did I meet her, but a team of enthusiastic JP link persons from the various communities travelled far and wide to be present. One had taken an 18-hour train ride to Mandalay and then an 8-hour bus ride to Yangon! Another Sister travelled from as far as the Thai border. I am truly impressed!

At the meeting we went back to basics; discussed the roles and responsibilities of JP Contact Person /JP Link Persons, the APJP core team, the UN Designate and the GSIJPO. We also spoke about communication and networking; the APJP Network and APJP blog which they were encouraged to be familiar with. They were reminded of the annual JP report to the GSIJPO.

Sr. Goretti reported, “We have decided to apply JP in all our ministries and have plans to find some effective ways to go forward. We will begin to network with the other NGOs. We will make an effort to begin documentation in our communities”. Isn’t that nice to hear? Face to face communication is so encouraging and I will constantly keep in touch with my sisters in Myanmar.

Journal notes prepared by
Yolanda Sanchez: yolasanco@gmail.com

Original in English:
Translated to Spanish by Victor Carrasco
Translated to French by: Yolanda Sanchez and corrected by
Sr. Marie Helene Halligon (France)

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