



Partnership for Global Justice

April 2018

# Partnership For Global Justice Monthly Newsletter

Welcome to the Partnership for Global Justice Monthly – a newsletter about PGJ programs, news from the United Nations and its briefings, and information about the activities of our participating membership. With this Monthly, we invite our members to provide updates of their social justice initiatives and share their related experiences. Please respond to this posting with a comment on our blog or send your thoughts to [partnershipforglobaljustice@gmail.com](mailto:partnershipforglobaljustice@gmail.com).

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Editor: Sr. M. Doretta Cornell  
Publisher: Debbie Whited

# LETTER FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

Dear Members,

We are in the midst of the Easter Season, the season of hope. How often have you been asked or reflected upon what gives you hope in these days of a world torn apart by war, famine, bitter ethnic and racial conflicts, and just recently, air strikes in Syria by a coalition of US, UK and French air forces?

Getting back to the question, what is giving you hope? In his TED talk last April, Pope Francis said: “To Christians the future does have a name, and its name is hope.” Recently, I think we had a glimpse into the future as the youth in America rose up against gun violence and mobilized a nation to “March for Our Lives” on a Saturday afternoon in March.

On any given day, the youth of the world are responding to the invitation to be a voice of hope for the future at the United Nations. In 2015, when the Sustainable Development Goals were adopted, goals that provide a shared global development agenda until 2030, the youth were integral to the process; “young people had a say and made sure the international community heard their voice.” The youth continue to be essential to the implementation and success of the global goals. (Global Connections: Connecting You with the United Nations, By Donya Nasser - February 18, 2016 ) [Donya Nasser was the United States Youth Observer to the United Nations 2015-16]

The Partnership for Global Justice has been educating and advocating for youth involvement at the UN for many years. Through an internship program, providing orientations, seminars, and other opportunities for youth to be engaged, the Partnership continues its mission. Molloy College has been a significant partner and member of the Partnership, offering what one student described as a “transformative” experience. Every effort is being made to broaden the reach of the Partnership into colleges and universities. If you would like more information regarding the programs for youth (colleges and universities) and membership opportunities, contact Janet E. Kinney, CSJ, Executive Director of the Partnership for Global Justice ([partnershipforglobaljustice@gmail.com](mailto:partnershipforglobaljustice@gmail.com)).

In conclusion, Pope Francis, in his TED talk encourages us: “A single individual is enough for hope to exist, and that individual can be you. And then there will be another ‘you,’ and another ‘you,’ and it turns into an ‘us.’” And so, does hope begin when we have an ‘us?’ No. Hope began with one ‘you.’ When there is an ‘us,’ there begins a revolution.”

*Kathleen Nolan, OP,*

Kathleen Nolan, OP  
Board Chair

*“A single individual is enough for hope to exist, and that individual can be you.”*

– Pope Francis, in his TED talk, April 2017



# SAVE THE DATE



Please plan to attend  
**Annual Meeting**  
of the Partnership for Global Justice



October 12 & 13, 2018



Maryknoll Mission Center  
10 Pinesbridge Rd.  
Ossining, NY 10562

**TOPIC: *Courage: Speaking Truth to Power***

The annual **Peace and Justice Award** recipient is

**Rev. James Martin, SJ**

**United Nations Opportunity:**  
International Day of the Girl

**October 11, 2018**

Watch for this page in the monthly newsletter for updates and details.

Please extend this invitation  
to your Congregation members and lay associates.



*Partnership  
for Global Justice*

*Members*

- Adorers of the Blood of Christ - US Region*
- Adrian Dominican Sisters*
- Annie Dang (Intern)*
- Ashlee Yearwood (Youth Rep)*
- Barbara Ellen Black*
- Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration*
- Benedictine Sisters of Erie*
- Cenacle Sisters North American Province*
- Cheryl Golden*
- Cheryl Wittenauer*
- Clint Stucky*
- Congregation of the Infant Jesus:*
- Nursing Sisters of the Sick Poor*
- Congregation of Notre Dame*
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- Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit*
- Molloy College*
- Oblate Sisters of the Most Holy Redeemer*
- OSF of Dubuque*
- OSF of Oldenburg*
- OSF of Rochester*
- Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, Inc.*
- Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary*
- Sisters of Divine Compassion*
- Sisters of Divine Providence*
- Sisters of St. John the Baptist*

—continued on next page



## April 5 The Value of Peacekeeping: Stories from the Field

by M. Doretta Cornell, RDC

*I found this a very informative program, hearing the experiences of Peacekeepers on the ground.*

**Daria Miglietta Ferrari**, Senior Political Affairs Officer in the Europe, Latin America and Asia Integrated Operational Team, Department of Peacekeeping Operations, reminded us that the major purpose of all the operations is to provide security, improve lives of the people, and help until the country is able to provide security, etc., without outside help. Some peacekeeping operations now are long-range, such as those in Kosovo and the Middle East, and some of the most important work is unknown to the public, preventing more conflict.

Traditionally, peacekeepers were charged with keeping the dividing line between combatants. Today, the charge is now more multi-dimensional, Ms. Ferrari said. For instance, then she worked in Timor-Leste, where Peacekeepers were for over 10 years, each time the conflict seemed to be winding down, the Security Council drew down the numbers of Peacekeepers. Then, when more conflict broke out, they raised the numbers again. Some operations never go smoothly but up and down like this. Kosovo is even more complex. Peacekeepers were authorized in June 1999, and their presence is still needed because of persistent danger. They also work at the grassroots level with municipalities on human rights, women in politics, and other developing issues.

Brigadier General **Khan Firoz Ahmed**, Defence Advisor, Permanent Mission of Bangladesh, told us that Bangladesh contributes the largest contingent of Peacekeepers, more than 7,000 troops. In last the few years, Bangladesh has lost 141 peacekeepers.

The Brigadier General explained that values of integrity, professionalism, respect for diversity and the ability to remain neutral must be explicitly part of all UN Peacekeepers' training, as even well-trained soldiers may not be trained in peacekeeping. The Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operation Training ([BIPSOT](#)) was created to fill the gap and teach such peacekeeping practices as making connections with the local people and helping them understand the larger situation.

Asked for stories of his experiences, he said he could tell "big ones, such as standing between guns," or "smaller ones," such as being at a refugee camp when he was a civilian and seeing children with no parents. He always played with them, giving them what his own small daughter needed. After a few months, he saw they were doing better, even though they did not know what would be next. He is not in this for the politics, he said, "but for humanity."

**Jonathan Greenway**, Strategic Communications Officer, Peace and Security, DPI, explained a new communications campaign in DPI to show appreciation for peacekeepers and build support for them. Right now, he said, 120 countries contribute peacekeepers and the camaraderie among those from different countries is valuable and the sacrifices they make are great. The campaign includes honoring Peacekeepers



*Partnership  
for Global Justice*

### *Members*

*Sisters of St. Francis  
of Philadelphia  
Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambery -  
US Province  
Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny  
Sisters of St. Joseph of  
Peace: United Kingdom  
Sisters of St. Martha  
Sisters of the Blessed  
Sacrament  
Sisters of the Humility of Mary  
Sisters of the Most Precious Blood-  
O'Fallon  
Society of the Precious Blood -  
Liberty  
Stephen Rivet  
Steven Rufe  
Victory Noll Center - Jenna Strick  
Wheaton Franciscans*



killed on duty (the Blue Ribbon project), and making known the stories of what Peacekeepers actually do. Videos, to be circulated mainly on social media, highlight the variety of tasks of individual Peacekeepers. The sample video featured a woman from Cameroon on duty in the Central African Republic, as she conferred with local officials and religious leaders on security, monitored crowding and treatment in local jails, and also accompanied a young teenager through pregnancy (the mother named her child Gladys, after the Peacekeeper). Finally, a [“Thank A Peacekeeper”](#) program has begun – and will run in the United States from May to October this year – inviting everyone to go online and thank a Peacekeeper anywhere in the world.

**Charles Anyidoho**, from Ghana, Senior Political Affairs Officer at European Division of Political Affairs, and a Peacekeeper in 1995 in Yugoslavia, then in Sierra Leone, among other places, told us how gratifying it is to see that their efforts have led to Sierra Leone’s successful transition to peace, now through several free elections. For peacekeeping to be successful, he said, the host country must be on board, as Sierra Leone was. (For some countries, the operations are mandated by the Security Council.)

**Amaka Azikiwe**, Political Affairs Officer, UN Operations and Crisis Centre (UNOCC), gave us the most explicit description of Peacekeepers’ experience. In Mali, she was the only woman in the Peacekeeping force, which met a lot of hostility, as the UN presence raised the cost of living. Trying to negotiate a peace agreement, they organized seminars and meetings between the two sides (one challenge was convincing the Tuareg to leave guns and machetes out of the meetings), organized training for local and national stakeholders, and encouraged women to participate in local and national elections and to be peacekeepers, too.

Besides the constant threat of violence, the physical conditions were dreadful; she shared one toilet and one shower shared with 20 men (“a very memorable experience”). She had not been informed that it was a traditional Muslim town, so had to scrounge for a head scarf just before meeting with the armed groups. The local women had never seen a non-Malian woman and were thrilled to talk with her about their lives and what the Peacekeepers could do to help them. Now, five years later, she said, there are more women (and more bathrooms).

Her darkest hour in Mali came in 2015, with the Radisson Hotel attack. She lived in a house next door. Hearing a boom at 6 am, she thought it might be construction, until she heard more shooting. Her superiors told her and her colleagues to stay in the house, where they endured twelve hours of continuous gunfire. Now, she told us, she has much joy at the progress she sees, although there are still occasional pockets of violence.

**Douglas Coffman**, Peace and Security, DPI, had just returned from a Peacekeeping operation, witnessing the end of the Liberian Peacekeeping mission. The mission began in 2003 when President Charles Taylor stepped down, leaving the country in “utter chaos,” after the civil war of the 1980s and 90s, with 1 million displaced people and millions of victims of sexual violence. Thousands of UN troops were needed to work with the rebels to support an interim government. In the first year, the Peacekeepers started a disarmament program, including disarming 100,000 child soldiers, which he called “nothing short of a miracle.” They then retrained as many as they could for re-entry into civilian society. Next was preparing the people for elections, which included major civic education to explain election processes.



## AT THE UN IN APRIL 2018 CONTINUED...

One challenge was registering women, which they met by setting up stalls in market places. So successful was this that Liberia elected the first woman president in Africa, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Another challenge was rebuilding the police force (there had been none for decades), which had only one vehicle for the entire country. The United Nations provided more vehicles and promoted women joining the police force. When the first all-woman Peacekeeping contingent, from India, was established, statistics showed a 400% increase in applications from women to police forces.

An additional challenge was the *ebola* outbreak, which took major UN and international support to contain. In spite of all this, the UN peace efforts were successful, as Liberia held was able to manage their own elections last year, after President Sirleaf 's two terms, and elect George Weah – the first time since 1944 Liberia experienced a peaceful transfer of government.



**April 6 Committee on Teaching About the United Nations (CTAUN): *Stepping Up to Protect the World's Children***

by M. Doretta Cornell, RDC



***Congratulations to Assistant Principal Dorothy Drexel!***

The highlight of the morning session of CTAUN for Sr. Janet and me was being present as Assistant Principal **Dorothy Drexel** of Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle School

on Long Island, NY, received the **Excellence in Education Award**. Ms. Drexel is a doctoral student of Education at Molloy College and has participated in Partnership UN experiences.

The award-winning program Ms. Drexel designed and developed with her faculty and the students is a whole-day departure from the regular curriculum, built around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and STREAM (Science, Technology, Research, Engineering and Math) approaches to implementing them. The program is called **“Become a Voice to Change the World, Not an Echo.”** Students in grades 5, 6, and 7 were assigned SDGs 1, 2,



*Dorothy Drexel and Sam Sgori, one of the teachers involved in the program.*



*Students engaged in Team-building exercise” near here.*

3, 4, and 6, while students in grades 7 and 8 focused on SDGs 5, 7, 12, 13, and 16. The students learned about the United Nations and chose an SDG for their cross-grade projects, which were developed under the slogan, “Every problem has a solution trapped within your passion.” They engaged in team-building exercises, then each group designed a project toward achieving their Goal. Teachers reported that the students were so engaged that they refused to leave the room during the exercises. The 7th graders chose SDG 5 (“Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”), re-

searching violence against women and girls and lack of education for them.

As a practical measure to “become a voice to change the world,” the students presented their projects to all 300 students at an Educational Carnival and also raised \$550 for UNICEF. So successful was the day that faculty members report that students continue to discuss ways to collaborate and the 8th Grade has started a STREAM Club.



*Students building their energy project (SDG 7)*



**April 6 Committee on Teaching About the United Nations (CTAUN): *Stepping Up to Protect the World's Children***  
**Morning Session: *Children in Conflict***

By M. Doretta Cornell, RDC



**Alison Smale**, Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, welcomed the more than 550 participants in the name of the United Nations and thanked the teachers for their role in preparing young people for the future, an essential element of peacemaking. She was pleased to report that the SDGs are becoming an

integral part of curricula world-wide. Today's theme is especially important, Ms. Smale noted, as every five minutes somewhere in the world, a child dies from violence.

**Grace Murphy**, of CTAUN, showed the first of a **series of short videos** about children and violence. This one was comprised of drawings by children living in violent situations. This and other [short videos on child refugees](#) can be found on the CTAUN website.



*CTAUN panel.*

**Global challenges and UN responses**

**Virginia Gamba**, Under-Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, told us that, in most countries in conflict, the majority of the population is under 18; they have never known peace. Many of these children say that school is the thing they miss most; it is perceived as a place of peace. In South Sudan, she said, children regularly show up for school, although they have no walls, no blackboards, no books, no paper or pencils, just teachers. School is their hope. She decried the deliberate targeting of children's "usual safe havens" like schools and hospitals and asked us to teach about what children growing up in conflict experience and make connections with these children, as some schools do through Skype. She concluded by calling on us to be ambassadors for these children: "It is not their war."

**Marta Santos Pais**, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, said that half of the world's children experience some kind of violence, in spite of the Declaration on Human Rights, Declaration on the Rights of the Child, and other international agreements. We still do not know how to intervene for them, and violations are often not taken seriously. Her office aims to create accountability for the children, to assist nations in creating effective laws on violence, and to generate needed data to facilitate action. This includes collecting data on non-conflict-zone issues such as bullying and cyberviolence, and strengthening schools and families to address these problems.

She also emphasized that the majority of refugees today are children, many of them unaccompanied. Instead of seeing them as threats, she urged us, we must work for more serious efforts to protect them. There are also practical reasons to act: the cost to society is 7 trillion US dollars. She called on us to work harder to achieve the Goal of ending violence by 2030.



**Marie-Paule Rudil**, Director of the UNESCO Liaison Office in New York, called on us to make the message of hope for education a reality. Our progress toward SDG 4 (*Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*) is very weak, with 263 million children out of school last year, 63 million of them out of primary schools. A decent education is crucial for development, but more than 600 million students do not achieve proficiency. Education is also the best defense against extremism (hence the extremist attacks on schools and girl students). UNESCO is working to develop new strategies and partnering with institutions for more data. The agency’s newest publication, [\*Preventing Violent Extremism through Education\*](#), is a guide for policy-makers to assist countries in making this necessary change; it can be downloaded.



Grace Murphy showed another of the **CTAUN short videos**, this one of a little boy who imagines there must be a vaccine to make him immune to gang threats. At the imagined pharmacy, he is told, *“There is no vaccine. There is only you.”*

### **The Culture of Peace and the Convention on the Rights of the Child**

This was a collaborative presentation by Ambassador **Anwarul Chowdhury**, Permanent Representative from Bangladesh and **Mikiko Otani**, a member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and an International Human Rights lawyer. Ambassador Chowdhury called on each of us to recognize our own need to change, to handle the challenges of life in nonviolent ways. Ms. Otani echoed this, saying adults must to learn how to speak and interact without hurting others in daily activities and model this for children. She also said we must teach children that they have rights as children. Some claim this will encourage aggression but it will develop their self-esteem, reducing aggression. Children must learn their own value so that they can accept others as they are, a necessary component of a culture of peace.

The Ambassador reminded us that all UN Member States accepted the [Culture of Peace](#) documents in 1999. He encouraged us to share this with schools. Some Boards of Education refuse to accept it as part of their curriculum, so it must be taught in action, on the playgrounds, by stories and little videos, brought to parents’ and teachers’ associations, etc. Ms. Otani agreed that families and communities must be involved, to provide consistent models of peace for the children. She also urged us to involve the children in developing activities to teach peace and using the SDGs for models.

### **Presentation of Winning Posters**

The next segment of the morning was the presentation of awards to 18 college students from around the world, for their posters (and research to develop them) on the Conference theme.



### **Voices of Youth – New York City Junior Ambassadors**

The final presentation of the morning was by **Penny Abeywardena**, Commissioner of International Affairs in the Office of NYC Mayor Di Blasio. Created on the premise that governments must encourage children to understand and speak up for the world they want to live in, [Junior Ambassadors](#) are chosen as seventh graders. They and their parents learn about the UN and the SDGs, tour the UN and meet ambassadors. Junior Ambassadors participate in UN events. Hundreds of NYC teachers are involved, integrating the SDGs into the curriculum and using them as a lens for learning about the world.

**April 6 Committee on Teaching About the United Nations (CTAUN): *Stepping Up to Protect the World's Children* Afternoon Session: *Protecting and Encouraging Our Youth***

By M. Doretta Cornell, RDC



Continuing the Junior Ambassador session, **Aissata Camara**, Junior Ambassador Program Director, and **two Junior Ambassadors** spoke about the program. The young woman Junior Ambassador said that, before joining the program, she cared only about herself, but she has learned that she can do something for others.

She learned about poverty and refugees and what the children are suffering, so now she sees her job as ensuring that “they will also have dancing.”

Ms. Camara said that she sees Junior Ambassadors’ changes in her classroom. Over 1000 of them are speaking out for action on climate change, for instance. One Junior Ambassador said, “The fact is, if we don't know the world, we won't change it. Our planet needs help. Children need to be heard. Adults should put our voices to good use – you must trust us.” Ms. Camara concluded, “Listening to children not nice. It’s necessary.”

**Grace Murphy** then showed **another short CTAUN video**, on the theme of “best friends in the worst of circumstances,” showing two refugee Rohingya girls, aged 11 and 12, as they go through the jungle and are fired upon. They always traveled together, they said, so one could go for help in situations like that. They say they feel safe now as refugees in Bangladesh. *[A little incongruously, the video had the Ave Maria playing in the background.]*

**Afternoon Panel – Protecting and Encouraging Our Youth**

Moderator **Craig Mokhiber**, of the Office of the [High Commissioner for Human Rights](#), began by calling the UN not just a building, but an idea. Looking at recent youth protests, he sees the UN values on their banners. Human Rights apply to all people; there are no such things as “junior rights,” although some are particular to youth, who are especially susceptible to violence, military conscription, and lack of education. Health care, the right to participate politically and economically, and the challenges of climate change are also vital for their future. There is a great need for education about human rights, as well as about what people are enduring.

**Siddharth Ashok Kara**, a Harvard professor and expert on contemporary slavery, said that his research on trafficking has taken him around the world, studying the approximately 168 million children engaged in child labor and subject to injury, as well as to physical and emotional violence. He then asked the participants how many had smart phones. When hands shot up, he declared, “Child Labor!” The phones depend on mining by cheap child labor, as do other products we take for granted: clothes, seafood, sporting goods, etc. Because of these, he declared, “We have failed these children! – The suffering of the children and the exploited is translated into delightful life for others.”



Sexual exploitation in the United States, he has found, begins for most at age 13; laws recognize this as criminal, but, he said, the exploitation does not become voluntary when the girl reaches 18. Between 7 to 10 percent of United States children exploited come from the foster care system.

**Sara Boyd**, a freshman at Lehigh University, started “Lehigh for Our Lives” after the Florida shooting. A PoliSci major, she explained that her generation sees political activism in a new way, using social media but not voting. Many are discouraged because they do not see the power system working on issues they care about, and they feel disregarded because of their age. Ms. Boyd now sees new engagement because “mass shootings are the norm of our lives” in places that should be safe: “So we march for our lives.” She told us she was astounded by the response to the recent march in Washington. She hosted a sign-making party in preparation; local politicians showed up, and her group is becoming a social action coalition.

**Mark Garden**, of [Sandy Hook Promise](#), who lost his first-grader son in the massacre, said he has a question for Sara: “*Will you run for president, please?*” He then took us through his arrival at the Sandy Hook school, having heard there was some problem, only to find out his son was one of those killed. He launched Sandy Hook Promise to prevent more carnage. The Promise has four programs for students, teachers and others, to learn the signs and how to intervene and get help. He urged us to reach out to isolated young people. One of the programs equips smart phones with an app to send alerts anonymously.

A **final CTAUN video** was shown, about Indonesian teens who developed a sting operation to catch sexual predators. Even though they collaborated with journalists and had evidence on camera, none of the perpetrators was prosecuted. They then worked to get a new law enacted; see [#endviolenceonline](#).

A **Spotlight** presentation followed, focusing on the [Child Fund Alliance](#). Secretary-General **Meg Gardinier** told us the Fund was created to enable “child-friendly accountability.” Children are usually left out of violence prevention, she said, even though in developing countries, 50% of the population is under age 18, and the CDC reports that half of all children experience violence each year. The Fund worked to get specific targets about violence against children into the SDGs. They promote initiatives at systems level, to mobilize and address children’s fears and develop survival skills to protect them from harm, analyze risks and develop solutions, translate children’s rights into laws, and analyze how effective such laws are. The Fund has an open-source toolbox, free to all, on its website. She reported success in a number of countries such as Mexico and Vietnam, and reported that a new program is beginning in Uganda.

The final event of the day was presentation of the **CTAUN Global Citizen Award** in memory of Barbara Walker to **Gordon Brown**, UN Special Envoy for Global Education and former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Mr. Brown accepted the award in a video message, during which he declared, “Now is the time for a Declaration of Interdependence” and spoke of the importance of the United Nations, through which countries can cooperate to meet today’s challenges.

The Conference ended with a young woman from [Girl Be Heard](#) reading a poem, “Prayer for the Children.”



## Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

April 16-27, 2018

by Janet Kinney, CSJ

### Background to the Permanent Forum:

The United Nations [Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues](#) is the UN's central coordinating body for matters relating to the concerns and rights of the world's indigenous peoples. There are more than 370 million indigenous people in some 70 countries worldwide. The Forum is a high-level advisory body within the framework of the United Nations System that reports to the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

The efforts to draft a specific instrument dealing with the protection of indigenous peoples worldwide date back over several decades. In 1982 ECOSOC established the Working Group on Indigenous Populations with the mandate to develop a set of minimum standards that would protect indigenous peoples. It was not until 2007, however, that the [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) was adopted.

This is the 17th session of the Permanent Forum, which was established in 2002, with the mandate to deal with indigenous issues related to [economic and social development](#), [culture](#), the [environment](#), [education](#), [health](#), and [human rights](#).

This year's theme is: *"Indigenous peoples' collective rights to lands, territories and resources."*

### Some Highlights of the 17<sup>th</sup> Session: Opening Session

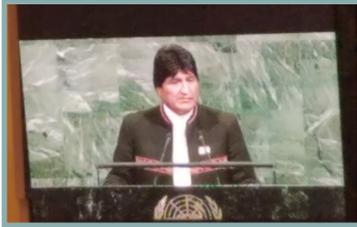


The annual forum opened with a ceremonial cultural performance and a traditional welcome by **Todadaho Sid Hill**, Chief of the Onondaga Nation, located in New York.

In her opening remarks, the **Chairperson, Mariam Wallet Aboubakrine**, a medical doctor from Mali, called the land husbandry of Aboriginal peoples "part of our history and heritage... but few countries have acted to defend these peoples' collective rights. . . . Those who defend indigenous rights continue to be targeted when they raise their voices – particularly when States or private actors seek their resources for aggressive development such as logging." She concluded her remarks stating that "as long as our rights over our lands, territories, are not recognized, indigenous people risk falling far short of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals . . . and the world risks losing the fight against climate change and the destruction of the environment."

**General Assembly President Miroslav Lajcak** reminded everyone that the UN is here for *all people*, and that includes indigenous people. Mr. Lajcak indicated that, while indigenous people only make up 5 % of the world's population, they comprise 15% of the world's poorest people.





*Evo Morales Ayma, President of Bolivia*, underscored that “We are all descendants of Mother Earth, so we are all brothers and sisters.”

**Dialogue with Special Rapporteur, Victoria Tauli-Corpuz**

There were several sessions with the Special Rapporteur, **Victoria Tauli-Corpuz**, of the Philippines. One

session which I attended was specific to the Human Rights of Indigenous people. **Mr. Adama Dieng**, UN Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide, and **Andrew Gilmore**, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, both spoke to those assembled, and, along with the Special Rapporteur, dialogued with attendees who had requested to make statements during the session. Time and again, speakers spoke of the human rights violations that they personally, or the people they represent, have experienced.

It was acknowledged several times by those present that the Special Rapporteur herself has been subjected to personal risk and danger because of her work on behalf of indigenous people. Her response was, “I am just one of many who are subjected to abuse. I give thanks to Guatemala and Mexico who helped establish my role. As difficult as these questions and concerns are, we need to put them out there.”

**Side Events – two of many given throughout the Forum!**

**1. Indigenous People’s Collective Rights to Lands, Territories, and Resources**

A panel was comprised of indigenous people or their representatives from the Philippines, Brazil, India, Mexico and the United States. Here are a few of their comments:

**Rick Chavolla**, who is affiliated with the [American Indian Community House](#), which represents over 170 tribal nations, spoke of the recent reversal at [Bears Ears National Monument](#), where over 1.3 million acres had been given protection by former President Obama, and that this was reversed by the current administration, which took back 1 million acres. This means that the land will now be subject to mining abuses and stripping of the land. This sacred place honors their elders, and they have asked the Special Rapporteur for her help to get this changed.

A young man from the Philippines, **Syreel Sayos**, who could not get a visa to attend the proceedings, was seen on video. He spoke of the challenge to maintain their cultural identity and that discrimination is affecting their ability to get jobs. The youth group that he belongs to is working on revitalizing their traditions, cultural programming, and conducting public forums.



**Olga Sanchez Caro**, who has worked in both Brazil and Mexico on education and women’s lands rights, spoke about her work in the Amazon and the challenges of mining and gold prospectors. People are losing their rivers and forests, and it is difficult to find the medicinal plants that they use and they now need to rely on conventional medicine to which they are not accustomed.



## 2. Spiritual Connection & Right Stewardship of Land, Territory, and Resources

*[Note: Many of the participants in this panel had also participated in an early morning breakfast, given by the NGO Committee on Mining. The NGO Committee was particularly interested in how they could help advocate for their concerns and will be discussing these at their next meeting.]*

The focus of this panel was very much their experience of the land and what it represents to them.

**Atilano Alberto Ceballos Loeza** of Yucatan, Mexico, spoke tenderly when he said, “We have sowed the seeds of our forefathers, and now we have very little left. These seeds have a soul, but they are threatened by the government. We are sons and daughters of the seeds. Yet (despite this) we come to the center, to the heart of the sky, the heart of our land. The wind embraces us and we are all one.”



The last panelist who spoke, **Sachem Robert Hawkstorm**, of the Schaghticoke First Nations, stated, “I hear the stories of today and they could be my people’s story. We also have beautiful land, yet our lands have been divided and now we are given a small plot of land and it is named ‘reservation.’ I wear my feathers to remember my ancestors, I talk with them, I walk with them. I want my children to remember and know who they are.” The Sachem, similar to the young man from the Philippines in the first side event described, is working on developing a Cultural Center so the children can learn about who they are and from where they came.

*[Editor’s Note: Here is a simple, formal way to pay tribute to the original inhabitants of the land you inhabit, and to their descendants who are still here: go to <https://native-land.ca/>, type in your zip code and see whose land you’re on.]*



## The Partnership & Its Involvement at the UN on the Issue of MIGRATION

by Janet Kinney, CSJ

Many of our PGJ members are very interested in the issues of migration, immigration, and refugee rights. Here at the UN there is a specific NGO Committee on Migration of which the Partnership is a participating member. The CoM's mission "*is to encourage the protection and promotion of migrants' human rights in accordance with the United Nations Charter. As a member of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CoNGO), we are in consultative relationship with the United Nations.*"

In 2016, two processes had emerged from the New York Declaration on Migrants and Refugees:

1. A process to develop a [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#) (GCM) and
2. A process to develop a [Global Compact on Refugees](#) (GCR).

Throughout 2017, the CoM was deeply engaged in the consultative and stocktaking phases of the GCM development process, while the GCR development process was more closed to civil society (i.e. NGOs) and this process took place primarily in Geneva.

### Global Compacts in Process

From February to July 2018, the CoM will be deeply engaged in the final phase in the development processes for the *Global Compact for Migration* and the *Global Compact on Refugees*. To date, more meetings have been scheduled for the GCM. Negotiations, which NGOs like the Partnership are able to attend, and at times give statements, have been held monthly since February. Thus far there have been three successive documents promulgated for the Migration compact; the second two were further revisions of the first document, which was called the "Zero Draft." The next negotiation meetings on the GCM will be May 14-18.

### April Meeting of the NGO Committee on Migration

The NGO Committee on Migration also holds its own monthly meetings. At its most recent meeting on April 12th, presentations were given by members on climate-induced migration. While factors underpinning migration are numerous (economic, violence, conflict and environmental), contrary to common thought, migration that is climate-induced is far more prevalent than those related to human conflict. The group agreed that climate-induced reasons for migration need to be included in the Global Compact on Migration and will be re-emphasized at future negotiations. Testimonies were also shared from Kenya, Africa, Australia, and South Asia on how climate change impacts the people "on the ground" and results in their migration to other states.

**Ambassador Teburoro Tito** of Republic of Kiribati, a small state in the Pacific Islands, spoke to us of the challenges that his country is faced with. Kiribati is comprised of three groups of islands. Stated Ambassador Tito, "Science is real. Climate change is a reality. Villages are starting to be displaced." His goal is to make his islands safer and strong; they are a fishing nation, and they are looking to funding resources to rebuild their islands. Ambassador Tito is currently working with scientists from California and Boston University as they look to find solutions for Kiribati.



## April 19 NGO Briefing "Migration's Contributions to Prosperity, Development and International Unity"

by M. Doretta Cornell, RDC

*This was an interesting panel with two distinct aspects: information about immigration's contributions and personal stories by refugees.*

Moderator **Ashraf El Nour**, Director of the [International Organization for Migration's](#) Office to the United Nations, declared that, in order to develop policies for "safe, orderly, and regular" migration [*the purpose of the Global Compacts being negotiated*], we must acknowledge the positive contributions of migration to development. Historical records show that, for the most part, migration has been "a driver of growth and a melting pot of human integration." He credited the adoption of the [New York Declaration](#) as opening "new ground for the world to collaborate and have a more structured approach to migration."

**María del Carmen Domínguez Álvarez**, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations, explained Chile's extensive experience integrating migrants into Chilean society.

Chile welcomes the recent increase of migrants, most of them from the Caribbean, because Chile's population is aging. Chile helps them integrate so they can contribute to the country, with programs to improve skills (about 25% of migrants are in these programs). Many others are doing "jobs Chileans can't do" in agriculture, fishing, and forestry.

She also acknowledged concern that many come on (and overstay) tourist visas, which puts them at increased risk of being trafficked or prey to a network of unscrupulous moneylenders who offer loans at very high interest to people in the informal economy, such as women selling juice on the street. The government has instituted a new kind of amnesty to regularize such migrants, and a bill banning such practices is now before their Congress. Chile is also issuing family reunification visas, especially for Haitians, who often had to leave their children behind.

Mr. **Bela Hovy**, Chief of Migration, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), showed slides of international migrants' contributions to sustainable development and urged us to change the narrative about migration. He also voiced the need for stronger data; to make for more informed debates.

He very strongly asserted that migration is not just a security issue; it is intrinsically linked to the process of development. "No country has ever developed without migrants," he said, both from within the country (e.g., from farms to factories) and from without. As some populations age, they will have greater needs for migrants to prevent labor shortages and provide elder care.



He then pointed out some trends in migration:

- Migration is not evenly distributed: most is occurring in Asia and Europe, with smaller number in North America, and even smaller in Oceania, Latin American and the Caribbean.
- Globally the number of migrants is growing faster than population growth.
- Most move within their region of origin; 2/3 of migrants in Europe are from Europe. This has important implications for positive contributions as well as challenges.
- Migration also depends heavily on age, population growth and opportunities for education and decent work, especially for young people: “If these are not available at home, they will move.”
- Remittances from migrants provided \$570 billion to their home countries in 2016.

Mr. **Kevin Appleby**, Director of International Policy of the [Scalabrini International Migration Network](#) and the [Centre for Migration Studies of New York](#), said that one issue not often talked of should be a main feature of the global compact: regularization of pathways to citizenship. Such pathways would make migration safer and allow people to get jobs, access services, and become part of the community.

One current challenge is that many migrants today do not fit the old definitions (“refugees” are fleeing violence, for instance), so we need to extend legal protections to people moving for other reasons, such as climate change. He spoke of the current situation in the United States, where many from Haiti, Honduras and El Salvador are threatened with the end of Temporary Protective Status, in spite of the fact that 88% of them are in the workforce. Deporting these people will cost \$3.1 billion and reduce the GDP by a considerable amount. Denying the Dreamers legal status, too, would cost about \$280 billion in reduction of economic growth over the next decade. He concluded, “Imagine how they could contribute if given legal status and work opportunities.”

**Manal Kahi**, Co-Founder and CEO of [Eat off the Beat](#), gave a very different presentation on migrants’ contribution. Her company is built on migrants – 97% of her team are immigrants and refugees, from 19 countries. Eat Off the Beat trains “talented home chefs” be professional chefs using their native skills, with native recipes, which boosts their confidence. The goals of the company are to “create quality jobs for talented refugees,” make customers happy to try new cuisines, build bridges between chefs and customers, and thereby change the narrative about refugees. As a For-Profit organization, they are making a profit, paying taxes, and enriching the New York culinary scene.

**Manyang Reath Kher**, Founder and Entrepreneur, [734 Coffee](#), gave us another picture of a refugee succeeding. As a child, Mr. Reath was an orphaned Sudanese refugee until brought to the United States by an aid group working in Sudan. Mr. Reath said being a refugee here posed great challenges, including the fear that he was “here to take over,” and that, since he was from Africa, he carried poverty, malaria and HIV, and, as a Sudanese, that he would be “fighting every day.” *[He did not mention that 734 also has a humanitarian component, the Humanity Helping Sudan Project, which among other groups, aids the refugee camp he grew up in.]*



When he began selling his coffee, 734, many people assumed he was looking for donations instead of treating him like a businessman. He is glad to challenge such stereotypes, saying “No, I create jobs and am a CEO.” He invited everyone to order 734 Coffee; they deliver!

*For those interested in migrants and refugees in the United States, this [email address](#) will bring you monthly reports of migrant and/or refugee-related legal actions – helpful and adverse – by the states.*



*“No country has ever developed without migrants.”*

—Bela Hovy, Chief of Migration,  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)



## Orientations and Presentations given

April 20—Sr. Janet hosted Molloy College second-year graduate Education students and faculty at the UN for an orientation that included Briefings by representatives from the UN Population Fund [UNPFA](#) and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization [UNESCO](#)



April 22—Sr. Janet gave an Earth Day presentation on *Laudato Si'* and its correlation with the UN sustainable development goals at Mt. St. Mary College in Newburgh, NY

April 14—Sr. Doretta gave a presentation on Water and Plastics to the Sisters of the Divine Compassion

## Advocacy

The Partnership has signed on to the "10 Acts for the Global Compact: A Civil Society Vision for a transformative agenda for human mobility, migration and development." This relates to the Global Compact for Migration. Here you can see the total document on their website: <http://madenetwork.org/ten-acts>. The list of signatories has not yet been updated to display our name.

## Watch UN Events Live

AS always, you can watch live coverage (and often stored videos) of major UN events at the UN [WebTV channel](#). Click the language button to hear them in English). A list of daily events is listed in the UN Journal at 11 pm the day before. Webcasts are indicated by a small red icon of a camera.

## Let's Keep Connected:

Please link the Partnership for Global Justice Website to your community's website.

<http://www.partnershipforglobaljustice.com/>

