

Review of 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda 2018

Our NGO was happy to have 9 representatives present for the Review of the Sustainable Development Goals and National Voluntary Reviews at the High- Level Political Forum held in New York from 9 –18 July 2018. It is called High Level Political Forum (HLPF) because Ministers and other officials from national governments attend.

Our delegation. Back row photo: Adam Prado (USA) Mary Mallany ibvm (Canada), Sarah Rudolph ibvm (Canada) Veronica Ward (Canada), Cecilia O'Dwyer. Front row: Sarah Ni Mhartin (Ireland) Nancy Ward (Canada), Cynthia Mathew CJ. and Ashling McMorro (Ireland) not in photo.

Apart from following sessions and attending side-events, we were engaged in civil society activities:

- Sarah and Cynthia contributed to the NGO Major Group Position Paper.
- Nancy provided research on Canada for the National Voluntary Review and Sarah worked with civil society in New York on their response to the Review.
- Cynthia contributed civil society input to the Ministerial Declaration - the final outcome document. "We the civil society," she writes, "had the opportunity to make interventions to push some of the issues affecting the people living in extreme poverty and to see that no one is left behind. The High-Level Political Forum and its outcome document are key instruments in assisting Governments and stakeholders to ensure that every effort and resource truly reaches those furthest behind first, and that no one is left behind." Read the [Ministerial Declaration](#).



Back: Adam, Mary, Sarah, Veronica, Cecilia.
Front: Sarah, Nancy, Cynthia



SDG6. Access to and sustainable use of Water were the topics of several specific events. Veronica accepted an invitation to a "Sustainable Use of Waters-Precondition for a World without Hunger" event. [Read about her experience](#) with the "high-level decision-makers and participants who prompted my presence as I am very interested in learning about the political and intersectoral approaches necessary for establishing Integrated Water Resource Management and progress towards SDG 6.4."

Cynthia joined the "walk for water" organized by WATERAID on the current state of progress towards an international commitment to bring safe water and toilets to all by 2030 (Sustainable Development Goal 6). "We walked around 2 miles from the edge of Central

Park to the United Nations – a distance that many women around the world walk every day to fill just one bucket or jerrycan with water that is often, even then, not clean.” You can watch the walk here: <https://we.tl/u5PVZXAvdn> “

Experience and Learnings

“With mixed emotions, I leave NY” writes Veronica Ward. “My journey began on July 6th on a Greyhound bus from Guelph, Ontario to attend the High Level Political Forum at the United Nations, New York City. Prior to my trip, I had a chance to interact positively and have comforting conversations with attending members of the Mary Ward team either by phone or email”. Read Veronica’s complete reflection [here](#).

Back in Guelph, Canada, Veronica decided to follow up on the experience. She runs a weekly program on local radio and recently interviewed Cecilia O’Dwyer ibvm on the Sustainable Development Goals - an excellent way of helping to educate the public on these global issues. You can listen to [the interview here](#).

Sarah Rudolph ibvm begins her reflection by stating “**There’s nothing like being here in person**. Reading the IBVM UN NGO Updates, one can get a sense of the activity at the UN but nothing compares to the frenetic pace of an actual UN meeting”. Read [What I learned at the High Level Political Forum \(HLPF\) on Sustainable Development](#).

Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

While much of the attention was focused on the High- Level Political Forum, another significant negotiation process was coming to conclusion. For the first time, United Nations Member States have agreed on an all-encompassing Global Compact to better manage international migration, address its challenges, strengthen migrant rights and contribute to sustainable development. A Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration was finalized on Friday 13th July 2018. Arriving to this point has been a long process of consultation, negotiations and advocacy. We have been engaged in and advocated our position through the whole process, together with civil society, including the NGO Committee on Migration. Visit the [NGO Committee Update](#) where you can read the final version of the Global Compact. The GCM will be adopted at the conference in Marrakesh this December.

Civil Society has 7 areas of concern

- Distinction between regular and irregular migrants
- Non-refoulement
- Migrants in vulnerable situations
- Right to privacy
- Criminalization
- Child immigration detention
- Implementation, review, and follow-up mechanisms



A Joint Civil Society Statement was delivered at the Conclusion of Negotiations on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration, New York, July 13, 2018 Click [HERE](#) for the content of the letter outlining the achievements of the Global Compact, some concerns and the list of signatures.

Visits to the NGO Office



Global Citizenship - Mary Ward Excursion. This initiative was organized by Annette Hasender, Germany, for “students and their teachers from IBVM and CJ schools around the world whose educational experience is rooted in the vision and charism of Mary Ward”. On Friday 25 May a group of 15 participants from Europe, South Africa and USA visited the United Nations and were given an introductory session to our work with the UN. It included a presentation on the work of and with the United Nations from the perspective of civil society and the

work of IBVM and CJ Congregations in partnership. To complete the experience, they visited the Mission of Germany to the United Nations.

On Monday 25 June we received a visit from the Principals of three **Loreto Schools, Australia.** Marina Ugonotti, Normanhurst (Sydney), Susan Stevens, Mandeville Hall, Toorak (Melbourne) and Judith Potter, Ballarat (where Loreto began in Australia). They attended the Second Global Forum on Girls Education held in Washington DC from 18–20 June 2018. This Forum brings together girls’ education advocates from across the globe to exchange best practices and innovative approaches for academic excellence and the healthy development of girls. They heard from trailblazing changemakers, had sessions addressing universal themes in girls’ education, including Leadership, Innovation, STEAM, Global Citizenship, Health& Wellness, Equity & Inclusion and had access to several new research studies.



Marina, Cecilia, Cynthia, Susan, Anthony (Susan’s husband), Judith



Ireland. We were happy to have Mr. Jer Holland from Loreto Fermoy, Ireland, during the High- Level Political Forum. Jer joined us for a side event on “A celebration for an International Day of Education for Global Citizenship”. An International Day will spotlight not only access to quality education, but the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development by educating for development, a culture of peace and global citizenship. (SDG4) Jer is the UN contact person for the Loreto schools in Ireland, an enthusiastic advocate for development and Global Citizenship education.

Sarah, Jer, Cynthia, Cecilia. Top: Beth (Loretto community Representative) and Jer.

OTHER EVENTS

UNDPI/NGO Conference

The 67th DPI/NGO Annual Conference was held in New York on 22 – 24 August 2018. With the title, “WE the peoples...Together finding Global solutions for Global problems”, the conference generated an enormous amount of enthusiasm and energy. Ms. Devopriya Dutta, from India, nominated by our NGO, was chosen by the United Nations Department of Public Information to represent youth on the panel “Shared planet, shared responsibility”. Watch the video of an interview with Devopriya by Cynthia CJ [here](#)



“Migrant Workers: An Asia-Pacific Experience”

Asia-Pacific Network. We are one of a group of religious NGOs organizing an Asian Level Conference on “Migrant Workers: An Asia-Pacific Experience”. It is organized in collaboration with the Regional, National and Local Organizations working at the grassroots level in Asia. It will be held in Delhi, India from 9th Sept to 11th Sept. Cynthia will represent our NGO and 17 participants from the IBVM/CJ network will attend. Cynthia will meet with the group for a day after the conference to establish networks and consolidate what already exists. While she is in India she will also have sessions in several schools and at Province Meetings on our work with the United Nations

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Working for a humane, just and sustainable world with the United Nations.

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