



*IBVM and CJ working together for a humane, just and sustainable*

Seventy-five years ago, at the end of the Second World War, the United Nations (UN) was established by 51 countries wanting to preserve peace and to build a better world. The UN marks this significant anniversary in the midst of a global health crisis with its resulting severe economic and social impacts. We also face an environmental crisis with democracy and trust in institutions under threat. The issues we confront are many, and can only be solved by collective action and global cooperation.

As most countries go through their second wave we continue to feel the impact of the virus. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), there are now over 33 million confirmed cases with nearly 1 million deaths. This pandemic has shone a light on the inequalities of our world and the failures of our structures and systems. Racism, intolerance, climate change, poverty, hunger, armed conflict and other global challenges continue to afflict us.

We need to build back better to ensure that no one is left behind. Now, more than ever, we need to strengthen multilateralism and build trust among the countries and citizens of the world. As Pope Francis said working together is the only way out of these crises.

In this issue we look at the various events to commemorate UN@75, including our network's participation in the global dialogue. We examine the progress of the Sustainable Development Goals as countries and regions provide their reports. With most UN forums and events being held online, our network has been able to participate and share experiences with you. We have a bumper issue for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Nations!

## United Nations



### HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The High Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2020 was held from July 7–16 and because of the pandemic, all meetings, side-events and parallel events were held virtually. This year's theme was "Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development."

The members and policymakers acknowledged that even before the pandemic, the Member States were not on track to deliver on the SDGs by 2030. The impact of the pandemic has made the road ahead more difficult. If we are to achieve the SDGs, we need to build back better. This will require "1) building fairer societies, by creating a safety net for the most



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NOT WITH SUPERFICIAL CHANGES,"**

**Pope Francis, General Audience - Sept. 2, 2020**

vulnerable, investing in public health and education in order to leave no one behind; 2) building together, coming to terms with existing patterns of discrimination and racism and providing strong roles for women in recovery efforts; and 3) building more sustainably, by investing in green and circular industries that put our economy on the path of realizing the SDGs and the Paris Climate Agreement.”

Read the summary report of the President of the Economic and Social Council on the conclusion of the HLPF 2020 [here](#).

A number from our network attended some HLPF side events. Read the reflections from Sarah Rudolph IBVM, UN Province Representative Canada, and Gill Golding CJ.

**“Beyond the Hashtag: Youth and Feminism Leadership for Racial Justice”** webinar on Black Lives Matter. “As members of the Mary Ward family, inspired by the virtues of freedom, justice, and sincerity, we are called to reflect on how systemic racial injustice may be part of our lives.” Reflection by Sarah Rudolph IBVM. Read it [here](#).

**“Child Protection and Safeguarding Online”** Reflection by Gill Golding CJ. Read it [here](#).

### 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Palermo Protocol

This year we celebrated twenty years since the UN member states signed the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children (Palermo Protocol), part of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. To commemorate this event, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Ms. Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, together with an Italian Non-Government Organization (NGO), On the Road and the Municipality of Palermo, hosted a webinar with Civil Society Organizations and Academia that allowed for an open and frank debate on the implementation of the Palermo protocol. Some of our network members watched the webinar.

Mary Elizabeth Kirke IBVM, UN Province Representative Peru, said she “was very taken by the Alcalde of Palermo who spoke with such passion of the need to revise the Protocol from a Human Rights base rather than one of travel control which criminalizes people in great need of protection.” “They are persons, not numbers” he said.

Read Ailish Gaughan’s (Loreto UK student) reflection [here](#).

### UN @ 75 and beyond – “The Future We Want”

To commemorate its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the United Nations launched its first ever, worldwide dialogues. The Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, on behalf of the UN, invited global citizens to discuss the kind of future we want and the global cooperation needed to deliver on our shared aspirations for a just, peaceful and sustainable future. The conversations encouraged future oriented public dialogues to inspire change and concrete actions to achieve the world we want around in an envisioned world in 2045.



Our IBVM/CJ network also held regional virtual gatherings in Europe, Asia, the Pacific, North America, Latin America and East Africa. We submitted a summary of our dialogues and individuals completed the online survey. Watch the short video about the report [here](#). Read the latest Survey Report [here](#).

### Climate Change and Peace after COVID-19 UN Association Youth Platform United Kingdom

Kathryn Keigher, UN Province Representative UK, and Eleanor Johnston, Past Pupil, Loreto Grammar School Altrincham, attended a webinar on Climate change, the role of youth and the impact of COVID-19. Dr. Franz Baumann, former Special Adviser on Environment and Peace Operations, said not one industrialized country is on track to meet the Paris Agreement target but the determination and power of the young people can make a difference. Read Kathryn’s summary [here](#) and Eleanor’s [here](#).

## UN General Assembly 75th Session



Every September for the last 75 years, delegates of the member states of the United Nations have met at the General Assembly Hall of the UN Headquarters in New York for its annual session and general debates.

It is also the time when world leaders attend and address the assembly. For the first time in its history the UN convened the leaders, including **Pope Francis**, in a virtual format due to the pandemic. You can watch his speech [here](#) and read it [here](#).

The General Debate and High Level events are being held with social distancing and other safety precautions to protect those attending the assembly in person. The High Level Events and General Debate are being held from September 17 – October 5. You can watch the proceedings [here](#).



The United Nations created a special first of its kind film “Nations United” to mark its 75<sup>th</sup> year and the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is the story of the “world as it was, as it is and as it should be.” It speaks about the solutions and actions required to address poverty, inequality, injustice and climate change.

Watch this amazing film [here](#).

## NGO Office at the United Nations

### On the 75<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the UN, Major NGO Groups and Faith Based NGOs call on the UN Member States to build back better

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on our health, economy and social fabric have been devastating. As previously mentioned it has highlighted the problems in our current structure and systems. However it is also an opportunity to re-set and build a more equitable, just and better world. As has been said, we cannot go back to normal, the old normal was the problem. Aware that many global issues such as poverty, inequality, climate and the migration crisis continue, civil society issued a number of statements calling on the UN and its member states to prioritize the most vulnerable. Below are the statements that our NGO endorsed.

#### **COVID-19 Recovery: Building Back Better**

“We call on the 193 UN Member States to renew their commitment to the UN and to turn this international crisis into an opportunity, using it as a starting point to rebuild economies that are inclusive, and based on sustainable production and consumption.” Read the full statement [here](#).

#### **Faith-Based Organizations on World Refugee Day 2020 - “To know in order to understand”**

“On World Refugee Day 2020, we call for transformation. We call for eyes and hearts to open to action by recognizing, contemplating, and sharing the life of refugees, IDPs, and migrants. Through them we can see more clearly the truth about ourselves, our societies, and the direction we must follow.” Read the full statement [here](#).

**Civil Society Calls for a Global Fund for Social Protection to respond to the COVID-19 crisis and to build a better future**  
We “call on governments worldwide to ensure – through national and global solidarity – that national social protection floors are made available to all people with the help of a Global Fund for Social Protection. National floors of social protection are vital to leave no one behind. They ensure universal access to essential health care as well as basic income security across the life course.” Read the full statement [here](#).

#### **Open Letter to Governments on Investor-State Dispute Settlements and COVID-19**

“We are writing to you today to urge you to take a lead in ensuring countries around the world do not face a wave of investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) cases arising from actions taken to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing economic crisis.” Read the full statement [here](#).

#### **IBVM/CJ network Regional UN@75 Dialogues**



The NGO Office organized regional (Europe, Asia and the Pacific, South Asia, North America, Latin America and East Africa) virtual dialogues through Zoom meetings in collaboration with the IBVM/CJ UN Province Representatives. Participants were asked to respond to three questions. 1. Do we think we will be better or worse off? What kind of future do we hope / want to be? 2. Are we on track to achieve these? If not, what are the obstacles / challenges? 3. What would you like to advise the UN Secretary General to do to address these challenges?

The conversations included IBVM and CJ Sisters, teachers, co-workers, students, past students, parents and friends of diverse ages, backgrounds and interests. Most of our participants were hopeful that we will be better off, however this will require the world changing its ways. We wanted a world more equal in all aspects of our lives and more sustainable. Our advice to the UN Secretary General was to learn from our experiences of solidarity during the pandemic and that quality education, trust and global collaboration are important to build a better world.

Read the reflection of some of our participants from various countries [here](#).

Students from the Loreto Convent Schools in India participated in their UN @ 75 dialogue, that also included their teachers and parents, sent videos sharing their experience of the dialogue. You can watch these articulate and enthusiastic young people [here](#).

## Youth Engagement for Global Justice – International Youth Day Webinar

To celebrate International Youth Day, we hosted a webinar on the importance of youth engagement for social change and global justice. Panelist Devopriya Dutta spoke about the importance of youth engagement in Climate Justice. Loreto India students Shivani Gond, Nina Rai and Tejesweeta Pradhan shared their experience of working with local NGO and authorities to stop Human Trafficking resulting in the arrest of a human trafficker. Ailish Gaugan from Loreto Altrincham, UK spoke about the



importance of raising awareness among her peers in her school and society. The discussion was adeptly moderated by Francesca Torcasio Barberis who recently finished her internship as the IBVM NGO Youth Representative. The youth participants engaged with the panelists through their questions and comments. Watch the webinar recording [here](#).

New UN Province Representative for the US Province, Virginia Maurer, attended a webinar on International Youth Day on the theme “I am Generation Equality. Enough! We are young, restless, our voices matter in the streets, in protests, at the table of decision making, at the podium making presentations.” She said the celebration of International Youth Day was focused, global and joyful. Read Virginia’s reflection [here](#).

## From our Network

### United Nations Made Easy – UN Handbook published by Loreto South Asia JPIC

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, the Loreto South Asia JPIC chapter e-launched their United Nations handbook on September 8, International Literacy Day. The JPIC members said they created the interactive handbook “to make the workings of the United Nations easily comprehensible for school children while encapsulating all the fundamental features of the UN in a simple and lucid manner.” The handbook was a collaboration of the talented teachers working in Loreto schools in India. We commend Sr. Nirmala Arul IBVM, UN Province Representative South Asia, and the Loreto South Asia JPIC chapter for their vision and passion in creating this helpful UN guidebook. They would like people to feel free to use and share the UN Handbook. Click [here](#) to download the UN Handbook.



### IBVM and CJ Statement on Racial Injustice

The Mary Ward family (IBVM and CJ) issued a statement in support of the people who have raised their voices against racial injustice and racially motivated violence. Read the statement on the IBVM website [here](#) and the CJ website [here](#).

### Loreto Mandeville Students in National Finals of the UN Voice of Youth Public Speaking Competition

Alexandra Sim, Clare Tuckwell and Eleanor Yip from Loreto Mandeville in Australia reached the national finals of the UN Voice of Youth Public Speaking Competition. They delivered two entirely different speeches on current local, national or global issues, and answered questions about their proposed solutions. Read the summary of their speeches [here](#).