



# Justice Coalition of Religious

1 June 2018

Congregation of the Mission

Congregation of Notre Dame

Congregations of St. Joseph

Daughters of Charity

Dominican Leadership Conference

Fondazione Proclade Internazionale-Onlus

Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary-Loreto Generalate

International Presentation Association

Medical Mission Sisters

Oblates of Mary Immaculate

Partnership for Global Justice

Passionists International

Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary

School Sisters of Notre Dame

Sisters of Charity Federation

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur

Society of the Sacred Heart

UNANIMA International

Dear NGO Colleagues,

In recognition of the critical importance of independent monitoring to SDG implementation within all UN Member States, of the shrinking space for civil society voices in policy-making fora, and of the growing influence of the private sector in these same fora, members of Catholic religious congregations on all levels of ministry are rallying around the need for collaboration.

One of these rallying points is the Justice Coalition of Religious (JCoR), a new coalition of 18 UN-accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) run by Catholic Religious. JCoR aims to strengthen the capacity of Religious working at the grassroots and those representing them at the United Nations to: advocate internationally, nationally and regionally for people living in poverty; address the root causes of unsustainable development; and promote equitable and rights-based development via a just implementation of the SDGs. To this end, JCoR will promote a cultural shift among Religious toward an operational model of enhanced inter-congregational collaboration and deeper integration of systemic change work across ministries from the grassroots level to the global level. At this pivotal moment, JCoR is poised to leverage its global network and enhance its members' collective advocacy efforts to address these global justice challenges and to ensure a just transition to a sustainable, equitable, rights-based model of development for all peoples and the planet.

With support from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, the Coalition has explored and confirmed the feasibility of their vision of a global advocacy coalition of Religious via a survey of their membership. In response to this robust affirmation of their vision, JCoR's member NGOs secured commitment from their elected leadership to participation in the Coalition and secured funding from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation to support the first three years of their formal collaboration, beginning in September 2017.

To date, JCoR has developed a governance framework, bylaws, and strategic collaboration and work plans. It had also selected the first geographic regions on which it would focus its initial efforts to promote a cultural shift among Religious toward an operational model of inter-congregational collaboration and integration of advocacy across ministries from the grassroots level to the global level: the continent of Latin America; the East African region comprised of Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique; and the nation of India.

JCoR is now pleased to announce that it has established a New York office and hired a full-time Coordinator, Teresa Blumenstein, to facilitate the process of bringing their vision to life. She will serve as the Coalition's primary point of contact in New York and manage its engagement of regional coordinators, experts, and partners. We look forward to continuing to partner with you, as individual NGOs and as a united body, to improve the lived realities of those who face the greatest obstacles to the enjoyment of their human rights.

Sincerely,

The UN Representatives of JCoR's Member NGOs