My World Week of Action responds to the desire of the many people who are indignant at the injustice they feel because of growing inequalities and insecurities. Wanting to live without fear of violence or conflict, they seek to improve their lives and those of their families. They ask governments to create opportunities for full and equal participation in decisions that affect them as well as in the strategies to address them. These issues must be part of a new agenda including but going beyond tackling the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals. It is an opportunity to have our voice heard and to encourage and help others be part of this endeavor. Special emphasis has been put on the 5 – 11 May, 2014. We may vote or organize voting at any time. There will be another call to action in September so you can still organize and encourage more citizen participation.
The Open Working Group (OWG). What is it? The Open Working Group is a 30 member group from the General Assembly given the task of following up the Rio+20 agreement to launch a process to develop a set of sustainable development goals. The Open Working Group held its first session in March 2013 and is now holding its 11th session. Two more sessions will follow in June and July. In order to provide a diversity of perspectives and experience this process involves relevant stakeholders, civil society, the scientific community and the United Nations system. This is an important part of the drawing up of a post 2015 development agenda and is one of a number of processes taking place as we move towards 2015.

Sustainable Development from a Youth Perspective. A recent meeting of Religious NGOs at the United Nations brought the voices of youth to the table. Fairouz, a young woman from Morocco, Daniela from Israel, Nyambura from Kenya, along with a young man from USA, were skyped in as panel members. Nyambura connects sustainable development, with family, society, mission at large, the human race, creation and all of life. Ecology, education, economy and media were highlighted as areas of great concern for some, while access to basic infrastructures such as electricity and internet is for others. All appreciated having the opportunity to communicate and connect with youth from different continents.

Human Trafficking.
Do you think your life has nothing to do with human trafficking? Think again. This is how Jean Okroi (US) opens many of her addresses at conferences organized to create awareness of the local dimension of Human Trafficking. Many are surprised and appalled when they become aware of the facts. Jean, recently, organized the Conference, Human Trafficking :What can we do? at the Theological Union in Chicago. Imelda Poole (Albania), who plays a significant role in the European Network, Renate, participated in the meeting at the Vatican on Human Trafficking. Although trafficking in human beings is a phenomenon that is not easily talked about, Imelda called on those present to raise their voice against this slavery.

Earth Day celebrated in Peru.
Earth Day in Jicamarca, Lima, Peru was led by a group of Indigenous men and women in the presence of 800 boys and girls and a group of 36 adults. They thanked the earth for the gifts it bestows on us in an Indigenous ceremony called Pago a la Tierra of Payment to Earth.

Loreto College Kolkata, India: On April 8, 2014, Loreto College held a Panel Discussion 'The Dialectics of Gender Violence and Gender Equity' where 6 panelists, - two from the Dept of Women’s Studies, a former West Bengal Human Rights Delegation member, a former Police Commissioner, an Army Colonel, and a University teacher from the Dept of Film Studies spoke on the theme and 3 students presented their perspective. A book on the Proceedings of a Human Rights Seminar held in 2011, ‘Striving Towards an Inclusive and Vibrant Democracy’ (ISBN No:978-93-80663-82-1) was released in February this year. Congratulations to all involved!

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