

Agenda 2030 - SDGs

We are now in the second month since the 2030 Sustainable Development began the implementation stage. This Agenda is universal and integrated, in the sense that all the goals are interrelated and connected and apply to every country and every individual. Last October we held webinars to introduce our network to the new Sustainable Development Agenda. The recordings and other resources are on ibvmungo.org website.



These goals affect each one of us. [The 17 goals](#) impact our lives and encourage us to work towards the implementation of the goals in our local context and in the world. The approach to the 2030 Agenda (SDGs) is different from that of the MDGs. People are making a huge effort to understand the interconnections of the whole agenda which are new to all.

Think of your own life, where you live, the context in which you live, and note how each one of the [17 Goals](#) is connected with your life in some way. SEE HOW YOU DO! The whole document, [Transforming our World: The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda](#), gives the complete information about the SDGs and a [Child-Friendly version](#) provides a useful overview.

Tribute to Doryne Kirby IBVM

Doryne Kirby, second IBVM UN Representative passed away on 19 February 2016. We are grateful for her life and we specially remember her work as our Representative at the United Nations. Some years ago Doryne made the following comment: "The United Nations and the works it achieves are truly awesome. The complexity of the issues and demands to be considered, studied, deliberated upon with eventual decisions is truly immense. Likewise, the various ministries of the IBVM worldwide, through education in its various forms and other activities devoted to improving the lives of people in many ways are both praiseworthy and impressive. In these ways IBVM is part of the greater whole. But the challenge to connect these good works with the UN is, I believe, very difficult". Doryne's last engagement with the United Nations was at the 2014 Annual DPI Conference.



Climate Action. Yes, we have a Paris Agreement on Climate Change. 195 countries came to this agreement in Paris, in December 2015 – a momentous achievement. Civil society played a prominent role in convincing their governments to take this step which is critical for the future of the human family and our planet. Now it is vitally important that the momentum continues. Our countries have to sign and ratify the Agreement. You have been invited to help with this by sending letters and emails to your Minister for Foreign Affairs, Prime Minister and Minister for Finance. Letters for adults and for youth have been distributed. Your Province UN Representatives have prepared the addresses and emails for each country. Now we depend on you to take the next step in the initiative. Thanks for your collaboration.

Our Network in United Nations Preparatory Processes

A First! This year the NGO Committee on Social Development held an advance meeting of the Commission on Social Development in Bucharest, Romania. On January 12, 2016, Hyperion University hosted the meeting attended by representatives of the Romanian government, members of civil society including **Sisters Adina and Inocentia CJ from Bucharest**. A short video summary [here](#).

The discussion included the Sustainable Development Goals and the nature of inequalities, including some of the systemic challenges they are facing in the Romanian context. Representatives of the Ministry for Consultation and Civil Dialogue informed on the work and challenges of that new Ministry. Points from the meeting were incorporated into the Civil Society Declaration presented in New York prior to the opening of the Commission on Social Development. This initiative helps people, who cannot come to New York, be involved in the processes taking place at the United Nations.

Preparatory Sessions Commission on the Status of Women

The Department of Women of the Government of South Africa held a two-day preparatory process for the Commission on the Status of Women to be held in March 2016. **Marian Moriarty ibvm** represented the SA Bishops Conference at the gathering of some 120 participants held on 4 – 5 February, 2016. Marian says “there was a big effort by presenters to help us see the synergy between SDGs/Beijing Platform and the African Union Agenda 2063”. These three ongoing processes are vital for the women of South Africa and the whole continent. Read the [key points](#) which emerged during those days. Implementation looms large and there are others here.



Advocacy in our Network



Members of Faith Alliance to End Human Trafficking meet with Premier.

In January of 2014, a group of men and women, representing a variety of congregations, came together at The Mary Ward Centre, Toronto, Canada, to determine how they could, collectively, address the issue of human trafficking. At this meeting, it was agreed that a UN GIFT Box would be and appropriate educational response.

After many meetings and brainstorming sessions, *Faith Alliance to End Human Trafficking* was born! This collaboration of religious groups and other partners is working through education, awareness raising, advocacy, and prayer to end trafficking.

[Read about that experience](#) and the later interview Premier Kathleen Wynne of Ontario, Canada had with Ann McGowan, Director of Mary Ward Center, Toronto and other members of *Faith Alliance*.

Letters to the Prime Minister

Members of our network in Australia recently wrote to the Prime Minister of Australia on recent decisions on Asylum Seekers, including children. The return of children to the detention centre on Nauru is at the heart of the Asylum issue. The letters voice a passionate appeal in the following terms:

“It can never be moral to detain people for months and years in limbo without hope or future; it can never be moral to abrogate responsibility for those coming to Australia for protection by

shunting them to off-shore islands under the rule of foreign countries; it can never be moral to keep babies, children and their families in living conditions which threaten their health and security and it can never be moral to systematically violate UN provisions for the protection of asylum seekers, the care of children and the human rights of all people.

I urge you in the name of all that is humane and decent to allow these babies and their families to remain in Australia but, more importantly, I ask that you and your government acknowledge your duty of care for these desperate people and give your undivided attention to finding a solution to the incarceration of people whose only crime was to flee violence and persecution and look to Australia for protection.” *Libby Rogerson ibvm*

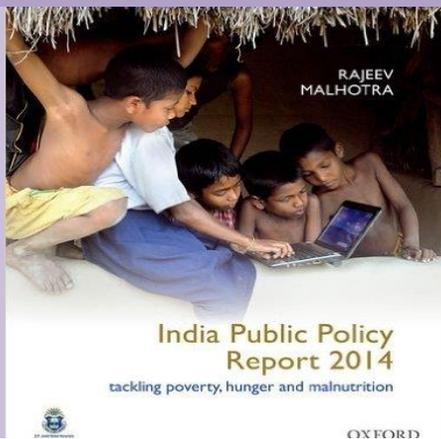


Photo: BBC.CO.UK

Learning and Awareness Raising

Students at Loreto College, Kolkata took part in an education session with Mr. Rajeev Malhorta, author of **India Policy Report** on 12 February 2016. The focus of the Report is on Poverty, Hunger and Malnutrition and reflects on human wellbeing as being able to enjoy: livelihood opportunities; a socially meaningful life; security of life and rule of law; and amenities for a sustained improvement in living standards. Which States have improved? Which States have remained stagnant? You might be surprised! You will find a [short summary of the IPR](#) here and it is worthwhile reading as you will find that many of the dynamics at play are universal.

Marilla D'Souza ibvm



One Billion Rising

One Billion Rising is the biggest mass action in human history to end violence against women in. The campaign, launched on Valentine's Day 2012, began as a call to action based on the staggering statistic that 1 in 3 women on the planet will be beaten or raped during her lifetime. With the world population at 7 billion, this adds up to more than **ONE BILLION WOMEN AND GIRLS**. The Loreto Network around India involves many thousands of women, men, girls and boys every year and 2016 is no exception. Schools, social centers in cities, rural areas and tea plantations, carry out an amazing mobilizing, awareness raising, and awakening effort.



Read: The concept of “He for She”, which is coming into public awareness, means that men and boys are willing to support women and girls who dream of contributing to the betterment of society and for achieving the implementation of the 2030 Development Agenda.



The First International Day on Women and Girls in Science 11 February 2016.

The achievements of women in science have mainly gone unnoticed, compared with the achievements of their male counterparts. When the UN General Assembly adopted the Resolution calling for the commemoration of an International Day of Women and Girls in Science, a new stepping stone was achieved in recognizing the contributions of women and girls not only in STEM – science, technology, engineering and mathematics –

but also in fields such as medicine, law, library science, economics and political science. It is intended that, through the commemoration of the 1st International Day of Women and Girls in Science, female Heads of State and Heads of Government will strengthen their links to women and girls in their countries and globally. It is important for all the sectors identified that deal with science: The United Nations, organs of the UN system, civil society and the private sector. A better understanding will be reached when it is known how much our society improves when women and girls are able to fully contribute.



Mary Burkart IBVM on her Immersion Experience at the NGO Office, New York

“What surprised me most about the United Nations” Mary says, was that it “re-kindled a sense of hope in the potential for peace. Seeing, in the same chamber, walking the sharing halls, lunching in the same cafeterias, people representing diverse and often conflicting views. It must be one of the few places in the world where opposing ideologies engage each other, daily, in peace and they do so with the common courtesies that change interactions into engagements.”

Watch the [video](#) in which Mary shares her impressions [here](#)

The coming months: March: 8 March International Women’s Day. 14 – 28 March Commission on the Status of Women. 5 – 8 April: Students and Teachers from Toronto in New York for course on the United Nations. 20 -21 April: General leadership at NGO Office New York. 31 May – 1 June: 2016 Annual DPI/NGO Conference in South Korea.

Learn+assess+pray+act+advocate

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