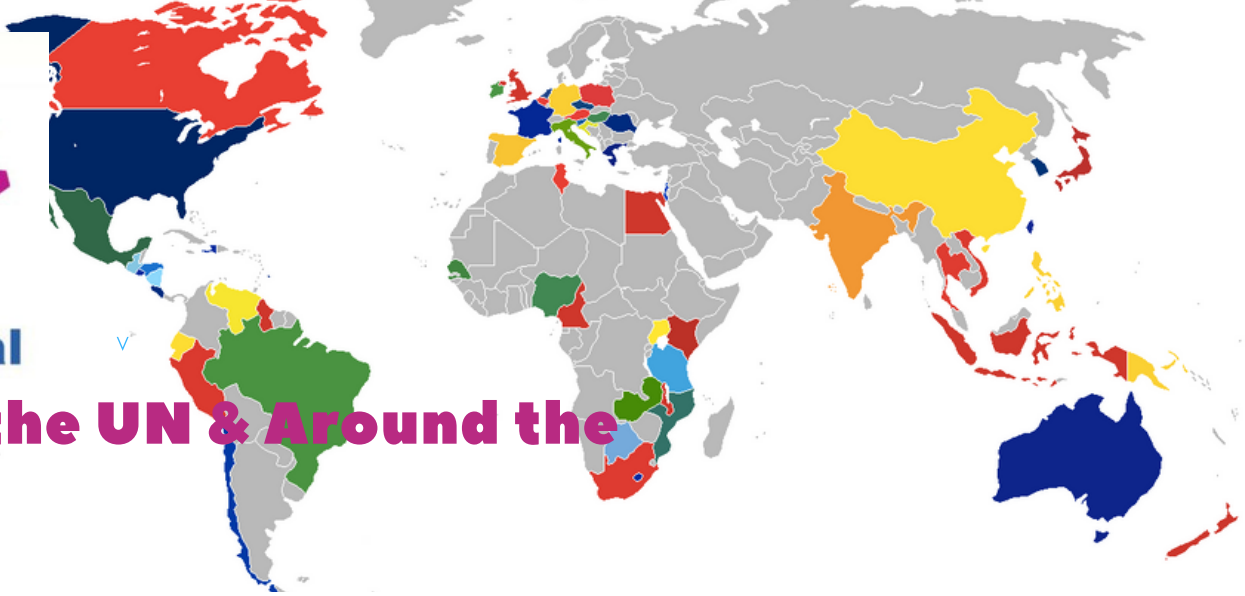




International

News from the UN & Around the World



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A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Welcome to the April edition of UNANIMA International Newsletter – News from the UN and Around the World. As you continue to read our newsletter over the past few months you will be aware of our main focus at the moment, which is Homelessness / Displacement as it relates to Women and Children.

These past few months have been very exciting for UNANIMA International as we continue our collaboration with our Research Project with NYU in New York. Three of their students are studying for their Master's Degree on the topic of family homelessness. The students bring their own unique gifts to the research with the support of Professor Michael Williams. The students will present UNANIMA International with a Policy Brief, Good Practices relating to Individual Countries, and Recommendations on Advocacy which UNANIMA International can use going forward. The students will provide their findings at an event in New York in September 2019

Please continue to share with us your stories of homelessness / Displacement in your own countries.

Jean

HIGHLIGHTS

1. Family Homelessness & Trafficking
2. Whats Happening at the UN
3. Meet Our Board and New Staff
4. Intern Update
5. Regional News
6. Grassroots Stories
7. Resource Section

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FAMILY HOMELESSNESS & TRAFFICKING



#MakingaHome4Everyone



Looking at Human Trafficking through the Lens of Homelessness

Human Trafficking is a global phenomenon, which has been on most State and International Agendas for at least the last two decades. Manifested in multiple ways, trafficking presents itself in the form of sexual exploitation, forced labor, organ removal and many other ways. The most commonly reported type of exploitation is trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. In addition, a recent UNODC report confirmed that there is an overrepresentation of young women and girls being trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation. (UNODC Global Trafficking in Persons Report 2018). In my exploration of causal links to human trafficking, I often refer to popular lenses through which this phenomenon is viewed. These lenses include; globalization, economics, migration, gender, organized crime, corruption, and more. This multifaceted approach reveals that trafficking is a complex issue and is most often intersectional in nature. It is commonly recognized that human traffickers prey on vulnerability, which can take various forms, including preying on those experiencing poverty, social isolation and unemployment to name a few. Causal links are also made between homelessness and vulnerability to being victimized through human trafficking. A recent study in the US highlighted the link between youth homelessness and human trafficking. It put a spotlight on vulnerable homeless youth who are often suffering from complex trauma experiences and are seeking shelter, food and clothing. Their desperation for having their basic needs fulfilled makes them an easy prey for human traffickers who are looking to make fast money by exploiting vulnerability through providing false promises of security. This study found that vulnerable homeless youth were deceived and manipulated for the purposes

of sexual exploitation and/or for cheap labor (Chisolm_Straker, Jeremy Sze et al, Screening for human trafficking among homeless youth adults, Children and Youth Services Review, 2019). In an earlier study undertaken by Polaris, the connections between youth homelessness and trafficking for sexual and labor trafficking were also made. This study suggests that in order to eliminate vulnerability to a pool of traffickers, homeless youth need access to safe and affordable housing and a place to call home where they can have physical and emotional space to thrive. The report highlights the real and ongoing problem of lack of access to adequate housing, including shelter beds. At the same time, it argues that 'stakeholders across the housing system - landlords, property managers, rental management companies, vacation rentals, developers, government agencies - all have a role to play in preventing and disrupting trafficking (On-Ramps, Intersections, and Exit Routes: A Roadmap for Systems and Industries to Prevent and Disrupt Human Trafficking, Polaris 2018).

It is important also to recognize, that victims of human trafficking can be exploited in numerous arenas, not only within an international migratory context but also within domestic settings, particularly where people are in situations of vulnerability, particularly homeless youth.

-Angela Reed, RSM PhD

WHATS HAPPENING AT THE UN



Working Group to End I



NGO Committees Update

NGO Major Group (NGO MG)

In 2019 UNANIMA International joined the NGO MG. A group primarily focused on promoting and engaging Civil Society's input and participation at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF). The group is working towards the two HLPFs in July and September 2019. They are currently planning and creating advocacy tools, organising side events, participating in Voluntary National Reviews and contributing various inputs to the UN prior to the events.

NGO Committee on Social Development (NGO CSocD)

The Grassroots Sub-committee has recently sent out a survey around inequalities at the grassroots level. If you would like to take part please contact us at info@unanima-international.org! The Advocacy Sub-committee is working to translate the outcomes of CSocD57 to a document that can be utilised by everyone.

The Institute for Global H offered an International Conference in February in New York. Jean Quinn attended as part of the Working Group to End Homelessness as well as representing UNANIMA International. There was a good exchange of plans on for International Advocacy; ability to hear good practice; focused energy; good strategic ideas around advocacy; a learning opportunity; connections made between the right to adequate housing and homelessness, coming up with common language and clear definitions; and the importance of linking homelessness to the Sustainable Development Goals. It was two days full of energy, commitment, and a deep desire for Global Advocacy



Meeting With Irish Youth Delegates

During the 63rd Commission on the Status of Women, UNANIMA International had the opportunity to meet with Youth Delegates from the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations. Aisling O'Boyle and Jamie Moore visited the UNANIMA International Office to have an in-depth conversation surrounding the topic of Homelessness. Executive Director Jean Quinn, DW and Executive Assistant Molly Gerke had the opportunity to discuss UNANIMA International's current research on Family Homelessness and Trauma.

This meeting was a fantastic opportunity to learn and share a diverse range of perspectives and experiences surrounding the topic. As well as sharing our individual experiences with Homelessness, the issue in the Irish context was explored and lasting connections were made. Jamie and Aisling were able to give us further insights into how much the issue of Homelessness in being discussed by Member States inside the UN, unfortunately the answer way very little. They also stress that Homelessness/ Displacement is a significant issue that youth, particularly in Ireland, care deeply about. It is hoped that Aisling and Jamie will attend the Research's launch in Ireland later this month.

CSW63

Commission on the Status of Women

57th Commission for Social Development (CSocD57)

The fifty-seventh session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD57) took place from 11 to 21 February 2019 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. This 46 member commission is the advisory body responsible for the social development pillar of global development at the UN. This year, the priority theme was "Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies". UNANIMA International was very active throughout the duration of the commission. Along with attending High Level Panels, UNANIMA International delegates were actively involved in Side Events, NGO Morning Briefings and the Civil Society Forum.

One of the highlights of the High-Level Panels for UNANIMA International was the opportunity to make an intervention at the High-Level Panel Discussion on the Priority Theme "Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies". Executive Director Jean Quinn, DW contributed a succinct yet meaningful address to the commission, bringing civil society's concerns to Member States, UN Officials and Civil Society Representatives. To watch Jean's address visit:<http://webtv.un.org/search/3rd-meeting-57th-session-of-the-commission-for-social-development-csocc57/6001030398001/?term=CSocD57&sort=date&page=3>

Alongside the official proceedings and High-level Panels of CSocD57, several side events took place over the two week period. UNANIMA International sponsored and was actively involved in a number of side events. Through our involvement in the Working Group to End Homelessness, UNANIMA International was a co-sponsor for an event titled Homelessness: A Prominent Sign of Social Inequalities. Co-sponsored by the Irish Mission, this event was extremely well attended. Attendees had the opportunity to hear various perspectives of homelessness from both individuals working with the issue at the government level as well as those with lived experience. One speaker, a woman named Iris Bailey, gave an eloquent and emotional address, leaving many attendees more passionate about eliminating homelessness than when they arrived. Quinn also moderated an event titled "Inequalities and Challenges of Social Inclusion: Housing and Evictions,



Extractive Industries and Land Grabbing", organized by Habitat International Coalition. This event highlighted inequalities and social exclusion in relation to evictions, land grabbing, social injustices and gender inequality. It discussed human rights violations related to housing and land, in particular forced evictions, and explored the community ownership of land and housing cooperatives as an alternative to the private ownership of land and housing. The event also gave voice to local communities in Africa threatened by evictions and land grabbing.

Another significant event for UNANIMA International during CSocD57 was the Civil Society Forum. This full day event brought together members of Civil Society attending the commission from around the globe. It provided an opportunity to discuss the commission, network, and share successes and challenges related to global social development. A highlight of the forum was the keynote address given by the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, Philip Alston, with whom UNANIMA was able to connect following the event. To watch the keynote address or the full Civil Society Forum/ The Commission's Official Meetings, visit [http://webtv.un.org\(search Civil Society Forum CSocD57 or CSocD57\)](http://webtv.un.org(search%20Civil%20Society%20Forum%20CSocD57%20or%20CSocD57)).

We are now looking forward to 2020 and the 58th Commission for Social Development which will elaborate the priority theme "Affordable Housing and Social Protection for all to Address Homelessness", a theme very much in line with the advocacy priorities and efforts of UNANIMA International. To find out more about CSocD57 and get the latest information on CSocD58, visit the Commission's official website: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/unted-nations-commission-for-social-development-csocc-social-policy-and-development-division/csocc57.html>

63rd Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63)

The 63rd annual session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63), the UN's principal commission "dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women," was the largest of the annual commissions. Only a year away from the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the event was filled with energy. Drawing a record number of participants in 2019, the commission brought approximately 2,000 Delegates and 86 Ministers from UN Member States and over 5,000 representatives from Civil Society together in New York City from the 11th–22nd of March. Among the Civil Society representatives were 12 UNANIMA delegates from 7 different countries.

The role of the Commission on the Status of Women is to bring together individuals, governments and organisations from around the world to promote the rights of Women and Girls. It aims to document the realities Women and Girls face globally and influence/ shape global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of them. Each year the commission has an official theme. This year, the theme of CSW was "social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls." As defined by UN Women "Social protection systems seek to stabilize incomes, promote livelihoods and protect households from economic shocks to social vulnerabilities, including from social exclusion, abuse, natural hazards and disasters." Currently over half of the global population is not covered by any type of Social Protection. These numbers are further exacerbated when only taking into account the female population. Due to gender gaps in social protection systems, Women and Girls experience lower coverage rates and significantly lower benefit levels, especially in respect to unemployment benefits, old age pensions and maternity protections. Such circumstances put Women and Girls at greater risk of poverty than their male counterparts across the lifecycle. Other factors such as the privatisation of public services which often leads to a shift from formal work to into informal work also contributes to the widening gap and further limit access to quality public services for Women and Girls.

Among the many important outcomes and recommendations that came from CSW63 were a need to recognise and reduce unpaid care and domestic work by ensuring access to social protection for unpaid caregivers of all ages, including coverage for health care and pensions. Additionally it was highlighted that there's need to ensure progress in women's access to social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure is not undermined by budget cuts and austerity measures, and levels of protection previously achieved are not reversed. Unfortunately, the commission recommendations are not binding on UN Member States but rather are seen as a road map or blueprint for them to follow. If you would like to read more about the outcomes and recommendations of CSW63 visit: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw63-2019>

Alongside the official proceedings and High-level Panels of CSW63 over 600 Side and Parallel events took place over the two weeks. UNANIMA International sponsored a number of events and had the opportunity moderated/ speak at two parallel events. Executive Director Jean Quinn, DW Moderated an event titled "Addressing Vulnerability: Collaborative Approaches to Trafficking Prevention Through a Human Rights Lens" which discussed Social Protections gaps and vulnerability to Trafficking. Executive Assistant Molly Gerke spoke at an event titled "Reaching the Roots: Social Protection for Indigenous Women and Girls" an event which explored the ways in which indigenous women were filling the gap in social protection. If you would like to watch a live stream of these events visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/MercyInternationalAssociation/videos/1723033057796558/UzpfSTMINTgzMDg0NDQ5ODU5MzoyMTQwOTcyOTI1OTg0MzY3/> and <https://www.facebook.com/hilda.anderson1/videos/10157243720032049/UzpfSTeWMDAwMTczNDQ2OTI4NzoyMTc0Mzk5MzY1OTYxMTkx/>





Top: Back Row -Stacy Hanrahan, Barbara Jean Head, Nonata Bezerra, Cathy Sheehan, Ellen Sinclair, Anne McCabe, Fran Gorsuch, Janice Belanger, Margaret Fyfe, Margaret Scott, Maureen Foltz, Pereka Nyirenda, Josee Therrien, Ces Martin, Eileen Davey Front Row- Barbara Spears, Jean Quinn, Lucille Goulet, Mary Akinwale and Janet Petersworth
 Bottom left: Jean Quinn DW, Executive Director & Molly Gerke, Executive Assistant. Bottom Middle: Board of Directors Executive Committee
 Bottom Right: MariettaLatonio, Research Assistant

MEET OUR NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF MEMBER

During the March Board Meeting UNANIMA International officially welcomed a number of new Directors and a brand new Executive Committee. We would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our New Board of Directors and share with you the enthusiasm we have going forward. Sr Margaret Scott, ACI has been appointed President of UNANIMA International, we look forward to working with Sr Margaret and her executive team in the coming year.

UNANIMA International would also like to welcome our Woman of Courage recipient Marietta Latonio to the role of Research Assistant. Marietta brings to UNANIMA International a wealth of experience from the grassroots and the international level. Among her many achievements, she has contributed significantly to publications such as "Inherent Dignity" and "I have a Voice: Trafficked Women in Their Own Words".



We hope you and your Communities celebrate this Easter with a heart filler with Peace and Joy. Have a Happy Easter!

INTERN UPDATE

Alex Satterfield

Alex Satterfield was an intern for UNANIMA International in..., now attending graduate school she continues to contribute to the UNANIMA International mission and utilise the skills she gained whilst in New York. One such example of this is Alex's ongoing involvement in Anti-Trafficking advocacy. She has recently returned from Italy, where she had the opportunity to attend a training for the leaders of Talitha Kum.

Talitha Kum is an international network of Consecrated Life against trafficking in persons. Working as a network facilitates collaboration and the interchange of information between consecrated men and women in 70 countries. This was an incredibly rewarding experience for Alex and solidified her decision to pursue this work as a career. Upon reflection she noted a number of highlights from this training. A meeting with Pope Francis following his general audience on Wednesday, January 30, 2019 was among the most notable. Alex says "Not only is he a remarkable leader and symbol for the Catholic faith, but also a powerful advocate for victims and survivors of trafficking, Pope Francis is a uniquely devoted world leader. The opportunity to meet him and hear his personal gratitude for the work that Talitha Kum has achieved and continues to strive toward was astounding and very personally fulfilling for the participants."

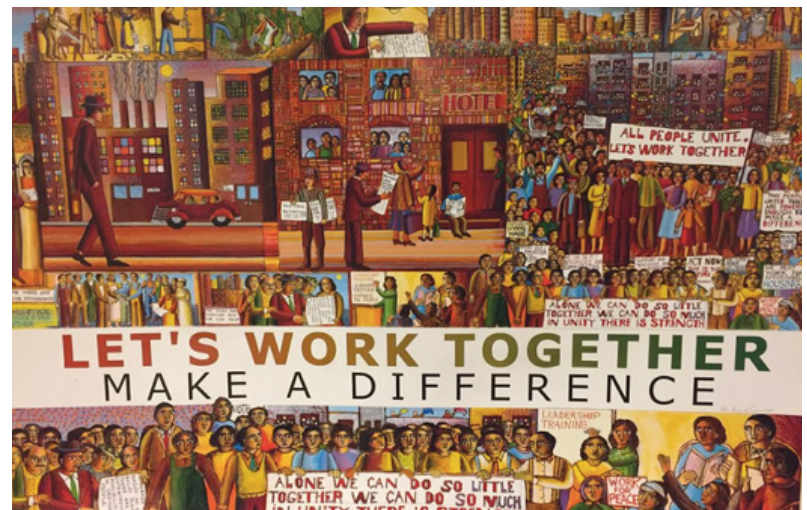
As an American student, she found this experience to be particularly motivating. As she was able to absorb the cultural variables and witness the ability of representatives from around the world standing together and actually making progress on this critical issue in today's society. If you would like to hear more about Alex's experience at the training for the leaders of Talitha Kum please visit:
https://gallery.mailchimp.com/8bb6ca603b91a37b4012a341d/files/c1fe63fa-942c-4e00-8b31-168b2b6563e9/Talitha_Kum_Reflection.docx



Important Upcoming Dates

22nd April- 3rd May	18th Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
3rd- 10th May	UNANIMA International Workshop, Manila, Philippines
22nd- 24th May	Expert group meeting on Homelessness, Nairobi, Kenya
15th May	International Day of Families
15th June	World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Something to reflect on...



REGIONAL NEWS

Poverty and Homelessness are the Problem, Not the People Experiencing it!

In Australia, Sisters of Charity network with various organisations and groups to assist people experiencing homelessness and to engage in action to end homelessness and poverty.

Through these networks, we engage in advocacy and awareness raising, in direct action and we make financial contributions, e.g.

- NetAct, a network of Catholic Social Justice, Welfare and Educational Agencies recently developed and published an "Election Kit" to raise awareness and suggest possibilities for advocacy and action in the lead up to our Federal Election. Homelessness was one of the topics.
- the Clemente program, in partnership with the Australian Catholic University, provides educational support for people experiencing disadvantage, e.g. homelessness, and who want to re-engage in education.
- the St Vincent de Paul Society offers financial assistance and affordable housing to people experiencing homelessness.

Australia has a population of about 25,000,000. Our most recent census revealed that over 116,000 people were experiencing homelessness, an almost 14% increase to the previous census. Over the same time period Australia's population rose by a smaller 8.8 per cent.

What do we notice?

- Poverty and homelessness are the problem, not the people experiencing it.
- The people we see on the street are just the tip of the iceberg.
- Domestic violence is one of the major causes of homelessness in Australia.
- Family homelessness is a growing phenomenon.
- There has been a large percentage increase in elderly women experiencing homelessness.

Lobbying and advocacy work!!!

In November 2017, a small Working Group to End Homelessness in New York (of which Jean Quinn was the vice-chair) set out to get the word Homelessness into a United Nations document. On 18 February 2019, this Priority Theme was accepted by all the Member States of the UN.

- Sr. Suzette Clark, RSC



Are Homelessness and Displacement an issue Individuals and/ or Families in your area face? If you would like you share your experiences and reflections please contact info@unanima-international.org



Every day, Australian homelessness services have to turn away **250** people

- ABS Census, 2016



GRASS ROOTS

CSW Delegates Take-home Messages



Upon return to their communities UNANIMA International Delegates were invited to reflect on their experiences at CSW63 the learnings they would be taking back to their communities. Hanane Hakkou and Sr Philippa Chakabveyo came from communities in North America and Africa respectively, here is what they had to say:

UNANIMA International Delegate Hanane Hakkou from Canada, said "Personally, I enjoyed a lot, and I learned a lot. This gave me the chance to know the issues that each country meets.". Among the learnings she will take back to her community are how she is now convinced that education is the key to happiness and that you should never give up. She says an important thing to remember is "The family should be involved in the growth and development of women. Women make up half of Society and yet she is the one that contributes significantly to the education of children. If a woman has access to a healthy and balanced life, she will gain confidence and have the ability to share her joy with Society."



Sr Philippa Chakabveyo's was one of two African based UNANIMA International's delegates at CSW63. She said "My experience of being at CWS63 brings out a whole new reality for me. I became aware of the importance of the need by our governments to provide social protection systems for women's empowerment and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality. For instance a lot of work is being done on the ground by NGOs globally and locally to stop human trafficking of Women and Children, yet human trafficking is on the increase!" Her time at CSW gave her the realization of how important being a participant in the great work of changing the lives of others for the better through her congregation (Religious sisters of Charity, a member of UNANIMA International) is and has taken this enhanced enthusiasm back to her community.



If you would like to read more about Sr. Philippa Chakabveyo's experience at CSW please visit:

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/8bb6ca603b91a37b4012a341d/files/3da8c120-6ec3-4818-a6ea-c726af4b8c05/NGO_CS63.docx

RESOURCE SECTION

UNANIMA Social Medias

Don't forget UNANIMA International's Facebook and Twitter! Updated regularly you can find photos, live streams, articles and more here!



Global Sisters Report

Global Sisters Report is a great resource that frequently publishes articles of thematic relevance to UNANIMA International.

UNANIMA International has been featured in a number of articles lately. Here is a link to their website: <https://www.globalsistersreport.org>

HLPF SDG Summit

Visit this website to keep up to date with all the information on the High Level Political Forum SDG Summit taking place in September

2019: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgsummit>