

# News from UNANIMA International

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## Executive Director's Reflection

Greetings friends, from Dublin, Ireland, as we celebrate spring here and rejoice in the new life coming up all around us. I greet you all in whatever part of the world you will be

reading our newsletter from, and hope growth is happening around you whatever season you are celebrating.

On April 22nd we are celebrating Mother Earth Day which originated in the 1970s. Today 193 countries stand in solidarity to call attention to environmental protection, so that our planet is a livable place for all generations to come. Earth Day shines a light on many important initiatives that are crucial to the long-term state of the planet. Over the past half-century, Earth Day has become a global event, and the largest civic observance in the world. The theme for 2021 is "Restore Our Earth."

This day recognizes a collective responsibility, as called for in the 1992 Rio Declaration, to promote harmony with nature and the earth, and to achieve a just balance among the economic, social, and environmental needs of the present and future generations of humanity. Ban Ki-moon, former Secretary General of the UN, spoke several years ago at a Mother Earth event. He urged people to "take your passion and compassion and build a better, sustainable world."

This continues to be the call of UNANIMA International and all our members as we continue to focus on homeless women, children, and girls as they bear the brunt of poverty in our world. We must begin a new journey which focuses on respect for Mother Earth and an awareness of our shared vulnerability. We must choose to build a better, sustainable and resilient future, both for Mother Earth and all those that development has left behind.

And as we celebrate Mother Earth Day let us start reconnecting to ourselves, others (especially those furthest left behind), and to the planet.

Let us Grow Stronger Together

Warmly,

Jean

## Upcoming Dates

22 April

**International Mother Earth Day**

April 29

**Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare**

May 15

**International Day of Families**

May 21

**World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development**

June 5

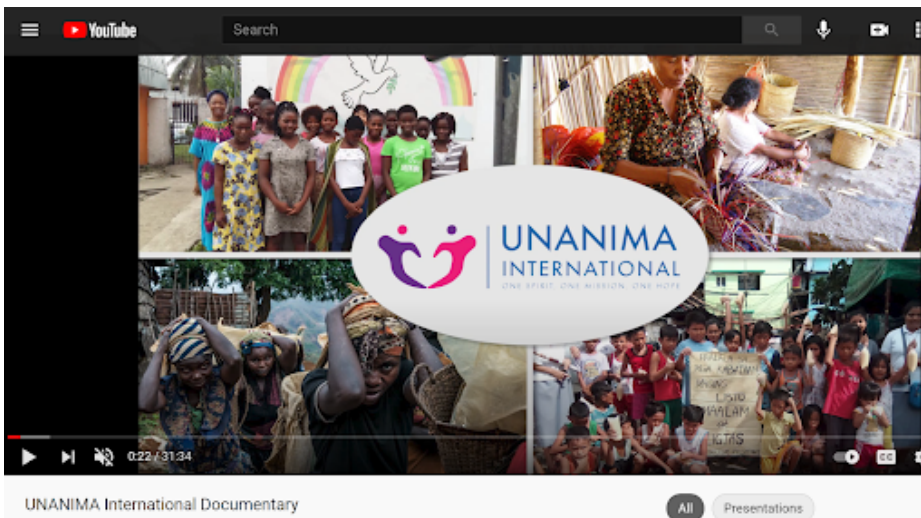
**World Environment Day**

June 8

**World Oceans Day**

## UNANIMA International Documentary

UNANIMA International recently released a short documentary which highlights how we have brought attention to the issue of Family Homelessness within the United Nations system. The focus is on our education and advocacy efforts at the United Nations 58th Commission for Social Development (CSocD58). We already have over 300 views! The documentary details UNANIMA International's research, political representation, partners, and lived experiences of homelessness, sharing perspectives on Family Homelessness' drivers, consequences, good practices, and solutions. We thank our Board, our collaborators internationally, our team, and our editor for making this documentary a reality. Watch the 30 minute documentary here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fppZgVpwMFO>



# Research Update

UNANIMA International's research has greatly benefited from our new interns' extended focus on climate-induced displacement. We now have new projects being developed, including a case study of the Caribbean region, an extended exploration of Indigenous homelessness in Canada, and a new focus on Indigenous homelessness in Brazil. In addition to this, the research interns are participating in various NGO subcommittees, and helping to promote the definitions of homelessness, which can help guide UN Member States and Civil Society alike towards ending homelessness!

Recently, Jean and Kirin collaborated in drafting UNANIMA International's "Hidden Homelessness" Working Definition which is pictured below and available at this link: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/18YvFgdPiczeOX7GmR9moERItb7pfsB\\_h/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/18YvFgdPiczeOX7GmR9moERItb7pfsB_h/view)

Defining Hidden Homelessness will help us better express research findings that show a wide variety of manifestations of homelessness, and a spectrum of experiences in being "out of home."

Upcoming events related to our Research for Education and Advocacy include:

## **"Women & Girls' Homelessness and the SDGs for Indigenous Communities"**

Tuesday April 20th, at 10am EST (USA)

The Concept Note and List of Speakers will be published at a later date, but you can register now at:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_jF7MZ34\\_Sb264Lk1T4bz-A](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jF7MZ34_Sb264Lk1T4bz-A)

## **"The Intersections of Family Homelessness and Human Trafficking Publication Launch"**

Tuesday May 11th, at 10am EST (USA)

The Concept Note and List of Speakers will be published at a later date, but you can register now at:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_TSSsRz6bS\\_ywomenJkAoxQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TSSsRz6bS_ywomenJkAoxQ)

Note: If anyone is available on those dates and willing to assist us in providing interpretation services in Spanish, French, Portuguese, or another language, please reach out to [researchfellow@unanima-international.org](mailto:researchfellow@unanima-international.org)



## **Definition of "Hidden Homelessness"**

**"The hidden homeless do not have a secure place to call home. They are people who remain in unsafe housing, relationships, or living situations; they are people who become homeless but find temporary solutions by staying with family, friends, or living in insecure accommodation. The situation for them is often short-term and unsustainable, meaning they end up in various kinds of shelters and emergency accommodation. This can be due to abuse and domestic violence. The hidden homeless often don't seek support as they don't want abusers to know where they are."**

- Proposed by UNANIMA International in 2021 -

# Whats Happening At the UN?

## NGO Committee Updates

### Mining Working Group



The guest speaker at the Mining Working Group Meeting in February was Beverley Johnstone, who showed two videos on mining in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The first, a clip from a longer video of a side event linked to Human Rights Council 45, had three speakers address the Revised Mining Code and Artisanal and Small-scale Mining. Frequently, illegal mining leads to conflict and impacts the poor population. It is important to formalize the ASM so the people might benefit from their work. While legal mining can be better regulated and bring wealth to the country, large mining corporations often take no responsibility for the negative impacts on mining. The policies meant to regulate mining are most often not implemented. The entire video is available at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ry0BdcC0IQO>

## NGO Committee for Social Development



The NGO Committee on Social Development (NGO CSocD) has a Grassroots subcommittee, whose purpose is to bring the voices of those at the grassroots around the world into UN deliberations on matters important for Social Development. Recently the Grassroots subcommittee distributed a survey to grassroots community organizations to gather observations about inequalities, and to assess whether these inequalities have improved since the adoption of the UN's 2030 Agenda. Responses were received from 208 individuals, including members of UNANIMA International. Please find the 2021 report and the Grassroots survey below:

“Towards 2030: Grassroots Experiences With Inequalities”:

<https://ngosocialdevelopment.files.wordpress.com/2020/12/2020-grass-roots-report-inequalities.pdf>

Housing-Homelessness:

CSocD Grassroots survey on Homelessness”

[https://ngosocialdevelopment.files.wordpress.com/2020/11/ngocsocd-inequalities-and-homelessness\\_website-upload\\_final-august-2020.pdf](https://ngosocialdevelopment.files.wordpress.com/2020/11/ngocsocd-inequalities-and-homelessness_website-upload_final-august-2020.pdf)



## Working Group to End Homelessness and the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW65)



On March 18, UNANIMA International, together with Vincentian Family, put on a CSW65 Side Event titled: "Hidden Homelessness: Transforming Trauma to Empowerment." We had many interesting speakers at this event shining a light upon their own personal experiences. Panelists included Sarah Gallardo from Sarah Speaks Up, an anti-domestic violence advocacy organization; and Marion Kendall, Executive Director of New York City-based Life Way Network, which provides secure housing for women who have been trafficked. Another speaker was ElsaMarie d'Silva, who is based in Mumbai, India, and who is the founder of Red Dot Foundation and President of Red Dot Foundation Global. Red Dot's Safecity is a platform for reporting sexual and gender violence.



Picture above: Co-hosting the webinar "Hidden Homelessness: Transforming Trauma to Empowerment," with the Vincentian Family at the United Nations, on March 18th, 2021, in parallel with CSW65



The full recording is now available here:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMrmpGmbjz8>

The Concept Note is available here:  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cI0BeShQeWTUuYV-RNnSHtoEGDcNgxeg/view>

An article was published in Global Sisters Report in follow-up to the event, titled: "Hidden homelessness' affects the status of women worldwide" by Chris Herlinger. It can be found here:

<https://www.globalsistersreport.org/news/coronavirus/blog/hidden-homelessness-affects-status-women-worldwide>

UNANIMA International also co-sponsored an official CSW65 side event by the International Presentation Association: "Transforming Gender Stereotypes: Making the Uncomfortable Conversation Comfortable," on March 16, 2021. The full recording can be viewed here:  
<https://fb.watch/4xFEcuo8M4/>

## Commission on the Status of Women (CSW65), continued...



A 65a Comissão sobre a Situação das Mulheres (CSW65) ocorreu de 15 a 26 de março de 2021. Algumas de nossas integrantes e nossa equipe em Nova York participaram da comissão, que foi realizada virtualmente. Participaram representantes de Estados-membros, entidades ligadas à ONU e ONGs de diversas regiões do mundo. O tema prioritário desta sessão foi: “A participação e a tomada de decisão completa e efetiva das mulheres na vida pública, assim como a eliminação da violência, para alcançarmos a igualdade de gênero e o empoderamento de mulheres e meninas”. O tema da revisão foi: “O empoderamento das mulheres e o elo com o desenvolvimento sustentável”.

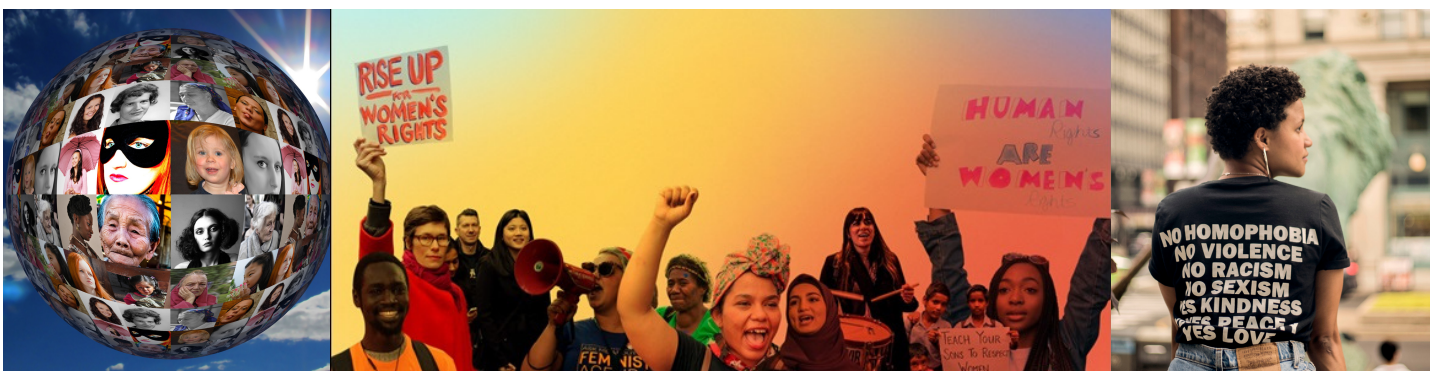
Em 16 de março, representantes da sociedade civil reuniram-se virtualmente com o secretário-geral da ONU, António Guterres, para compartilhar com ele suas reflexões e levar questões sobre a desigualdade de gênero e a crise da COVID-19. Ele afirmou que a desigualdade de gênero “tornou-se uma pandemia na sombra”, e que os impactos da COVID-19 têm sido “devastadores sobre os direitos das mulheres”. Em resposta a isto, uma de nossas contribuições à CSW65 foi produzir uma declaração que apresenta a privação de moradia como uma forma de violência contra as mulheres, que as impede de participar na tomada de decisões. Portanto, precisamos considerar a erradicação da privação de moradia como parte fundamental da erradicação da violência e a crescente inclusão das mulheres em todos os níveis de tomada de decisão da sociedade. Veja a declaração da UNANIMA International, abaixo:

Declaração da UNANIMA International à CSW65 (inglês)

<https://youtu.be/VX06ia9rhec>

Declaração da UNANIMA International à CSW65 (espanhol)

<https://youtu.be/ftLuNrKR474>



# News from Sophia Housing:

## Research Partner of UNANIMA International



**Sophia**  
providing homes · supporting people

Sophia Housing (Ireland) which was founded by UNANIMA International's Executive Director, Jean Quinn, DW, has been awarded The Public Sector Award for Excellence in Housing Services Supporting Families 2021. Sophia was also featured in a special edition of the Public Sector Magazine, which focuses on Social Housing. The article is on page 94, which can be viewed via this link: <https://thepublicsector.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/PSM-HS-2020-WEB.pdf>

Permanent, supported housing is the model that UNANIMA International promotes as a good practice in ending homelessness. Thus, recognition of Sophia Housing's success will help support our advocacy that promotes this model. Sophia Housing have also provided valuable inputs to our research, including our Ireland Case Study in Hidden Faces of Homelessness: International Research on Families (Volume One) found here on page 36: <https://unanima-international.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/WEB-Case-Studies-brochure.pdf>

## Voices of our Interns

In a follow-up to CSocD59, our intern Lara Hicks from Syracuse University, wrote a blog post with her reflection:

Two key themes that I walked away with after attending CSocD59 were:

1. We must invest in robust social safety nets, and
2. Technology can help people to break the cycle of homelessness or poverty but can also contribute further to the exclusion of vulnerable groups...



It was an incredible honor to ask questions and hear not just the challenges of social development, but also gain some insights into potential successes with digital technologies. CSocD59 reminded me of the importance of hearing from individuals with lived experiences of poverty, displacement, homelessness, and beneficial or harmful experiences as a result of technology. I am looking forward to attending events from the 65th session of the Commission on the Status of Women later this month and applying what I have learned in my research of displacement and mining. I am so grateful to intern at UNANIMA International!

Her full reflection can be read here:

<https://unanima-international.org/2021/03/25/reflections-on-csocd59/>

# UNANIMA International Board: In Memoriam

Sadly, two of our members passed away in the past few months:

## ***Sr. Mary Jean Audette***

A Holy Union Sister, she died on the 13th January at the Fall River Jewish Home. Sr Mary Jean taught Junior and Senior High School classes, and served as treasurer for the Fall River Province of the Holy Union Sisters. She pursued a Law Degree at Cardoza School of Law at Yeshiva University. After graduation she became a lawyer and worked in legal and social services in the San Angelo and Forth Worth, Texas Dioceses. She moved to Maryland and became the Director of Legal Offices of the National Organization for Women and Men Religious. During this time she was active in the Washington Office on Haiti and travelled to Port au Prince as a special observer for parliamentary elections in 1995. She served on the Board of UNANIMA International as secretary and treasurer of the group.

## ***Sr. Dianna Ortiz***

Sr. Dianna passed away on February 19th, after a battle with COVID-19 and then, cancer. She was an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph, and an educator, working in two Catholic schools in Kentucky. In 1989, she moved to Guatemala. While working as a Missionary with the Indigenous people of Guatemala, she was kidnapped and tortured by members of the Guatemalan Security Forces. The PTSD from her experience was so severe that she had no memory of her past life, including her family or her Sisters in Faith. Despite this she became a forceful and tireless advocate for torture victims everywhere. She worked at the Guatemalan Human Rights Commission, and in 1998 formed the Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition International. We were blessed to have Sr. Dianna serve on the Board of UNANIMA International.

Let us remember their families, their communities and friends in our prayers.



In this 2016 photo of our Board, Sr Dianna is 3rd from the left, and Mary Jean Audette is 4th from the left





*Women & Children*



*Homelessness/Displacement*



*Migrants & Refugees*



*Climate*

## Grassroots Stories: Volunteering in a Soup Kitchen

We, the members of the SND Eco Spirituality Center are still busy even in the agricultural off-season of winter with the preparation for the next farming. Many people are passing through difficult times due to Covid-19. Since it is not easy to give a helping hand the isolation becomes more intense. In such conditions, a couple of choices to do what is right lie before us: Do we stay at home for each other's safety or go out to help the less fortunate in spite of the risks? Having discussed that the marginalized more easily fall victim to further isolation, loneliness and hardship, we have been looking for opportunities to share what we have with them as well as the best way to do it. (Continued on next page)



Soon we heard that the homeless people around Seoul central train station were having difficulties because the soup kitchen for them diminished. We decided and planned to help them even with just one meal. Then a priest happened to visit us and donated some money hoping to assist our action. As another young priest of our diocese stepped forward, we asked him to be our driver. We had only made the decision when everything was smoothly arranged as if all had already been prepared for us.

On Jan. 7, we headed to Namdaemun Gate with 100 portions of spicy meat stew that we cooked. At the entrance of Namdaemun imports stores, five sisters who all members of Congregations belonging to the Association of Major Superiors of Religious in Korea were waiting for us to help us out. Each of them belongs to a different Congregation and happily ran to us on our request for help.

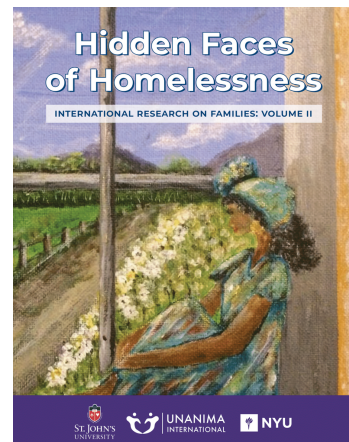
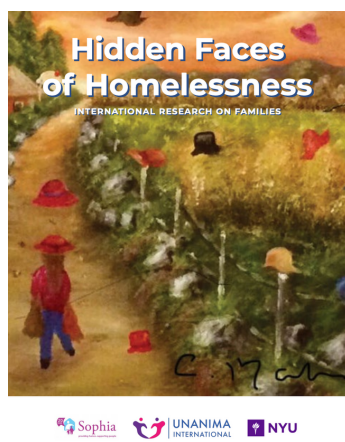
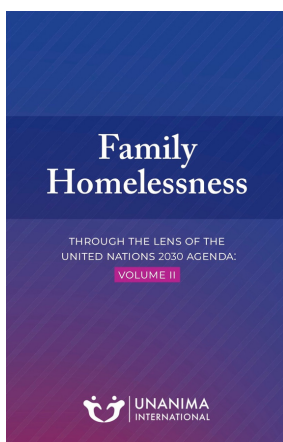
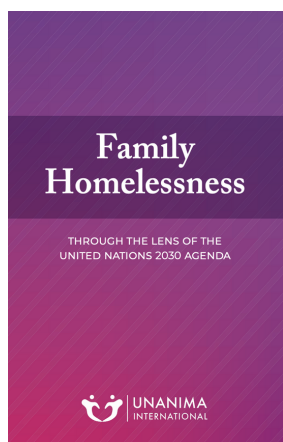
We made the homeless very happy with a bowl of hot meat stew but felt sorry too because the food became colder so quickly by the wintery air. They were also really delighted when treated with the corn on the cob we had harvested and stored for the retreatant sisters. We kept the best and tastiest ones for the end as Our Lord kept the best for last at the Wedding Feast at Cana. In every direction we moved, hungry hands were stretched out to us, some of which were offered the steamed corn instead of the stew when the stew ran out.

We heard the Lord saying, “collect the scraps of bread in baskets” and witnessed twelve baskets full of leftover bread as in the Bible story. Each of our hearts was filled with abundant bread of life, the bread which becomes more abundant as it is shared. Pope Frances says in 「Let us dream」, “In crisis we have to act. Then a new door opens.” In this time of crisis, we feel it is the time to take action. This is the opportunity to change the crisis into blessings.

Incheon | Volunteering in a Soup Kitchen January 23, 2021 | sndl.org

## Resources

If you haven't already, please check out UNANIMA International's publications:



Please also find in the link below [The United Nation's Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2020](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/tip/2021/GLOTiP_2020_15jan_web.pdf), an essential resource for UNANIMA's focus on the interlinkages between Family Homelessness and Human Trafficking [https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/tip/2021/GLOTiP\\_2020\\_15jan\\_web.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/tip/2021/GLOTiP_2020_15jan_web.pdf)