

UFER

International Movement for Fraternal
Union Among Races and Peoples



An Idea in Action

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The International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples (UFER) is a federation of organizations and persons involved in the promotion of understanding, dialogue and cooperation between peoples, ethnic and cultural groups, in the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

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Happy New Year 2014

EDITORIAL

Par Raymonde Martineau, Secretary-General

This year, Human Rights Day focused on the 20th Anniversary of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. But 10 December 2013 will be mainly remembered as the day of Nelson Mandela's memorial ceremony in the Soweto stadium attended by Heads of States from all over the world.

The death of Nelson Mandela reminds us of the important role he played during the transition period from his liberation, in 1990, until his election as first black President of South Africa, in 1994. In the course of my career in the United Nations, I had the privilege of taking part in the United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa (UNOMSA) from 1992 to 1994. I remember one particular moment when Mandela's role was decisive. On 10 April 1993, Chris Hani, Secretary-General of the South-African Communist Party and former commander of Umkhonto we Sizwe, the armed wing of the ANC, who was considered one of the possible successors to Nelson Mandela, was assassinated in front of his house in a Johannesburg suburb by a Neo-Nazi Polish émigré mandated by the extreme right wing. That assassination brought South Africa to the brink of civil war. It was feared there would be a mass uprising of the youth in the townships who worshipped Chris Hani.

The South African government of the time wanted to ban all demonstrations, which would have been the best way to stir up violence. Voices were raised against that plan, among them people in our Mission. The head of Mission, Angela King, even spoke to the Minister of Law and Order of the time, Hernus Kriel, to dissuade him from completely banning demonstrations. It would be better to guide and manage them.

It was then that the government agreed that Mandela should address the nation, on 13 April 1993, to calm people down. *"Tonight I am reaching out, were his opening words, "to every single South African, black and white, from the very depths of my being ... What has happened is a national tragedy that has touched millions of people, across the political and colour divide." He invited his white compatriots to the memorial services and funeral commemorations that were going to be held. He asked the security forces to show restraint and made an appeal to the youth of South Africa: "You are the leaders of tomorrow. Your country, your people, your organization need you to act with wisdom. A particular responsibility rests on your shoulders." And he ended by saying, "Chris Hani has made the supreme sacrifice. The greatest tribute we can pay to his life's work is to ensure that we win that freedom for all our people."*¹

That was the point at which it became clear, a year before the elections, that the true head of State of South Africa was Nelson Mandela.

I recall these 10 days between the assassination of Chris Hani and his funeral on 19 April in the white suburb of Boksburg as a time of great tension, but also as a pivotal moment in the formation of the 'rainbow nation'. There were deaths during that week of mourning, but South Africa was able to escape the worst, thanks to Nelson Mandela's capacity to make himself heard and understood by all who made up the South Africa nation that was to come.

There was no better moment to celebrate the life of Madiba than 10 December, International Human Rights Day.

¹ The speech can be found on the Website of the ANC: <http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?id=4304>

Recent developments in human rights

*By Paul Beersmans, Berhane Raswork &
Raymonde Martineau*

Some think that the United Nations is very far from the daily preoccupations of the inhabitants of this planet. But when we look at what happened in the last six months in its human rights bodies, for example, we realize that these instances deal with a large variety of issues of concern to us all. At each session, they produce studies and reports and adopt a whole series of resolutions, most of them by consensus. We should not wait for the governments to make use of these studies and reports or implement these resolutions. Civil society organizations should take initiative and use them as a tool to advance their cause. Here are some examples.

- ✚ **Syria** - At its 23rd & 24th sessions, in May-June and September 2013 respectively, the Human Rights Council (HRC) paid a lot of attention to the situation in Syria, more specifically to the **victims of the killings in Al-Qusayr**² as well as to the large number of internally displaced persons³. The situation of **children** is particularly alarming. The High Commissioner for Refugees of the United Nations did not hesitate to talk about a "lost generation" and launched an appeal in their favour.

On 2 December last, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms Navi Pillay, declared that the UN Commission of Enquiry on Human Rights in Syria "*had produced massive evidence ... of serious crimes, war crimes, **crimes against humanity***" adding that "*the evidence indicates responsibility at the highest level of government, including the head of state*".

- ✚ **Women's Rights** - At its 23rd session, the Council dedicated four high-level panels to basic women's rights. It called for acceleration in the efforts to eliminate all forms of **violence** against women: preventing and responding to rape and other forms of sexual violence.⁴ At its 24th session, it expressed grave concern about the high level of sexual violence used as weapon of war in the Eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.⁵ A high-level panel was also held on the identification of good practices in combating **female genital mutilation**.⁶
- ✚ **Human trafficking**, especially of women and children, greatly preoccupies the Council. This time, it encouraged businesses to establish an effective monitoring system to scrutinize the risks of human trafficking at all levels of the supply chain and urged States to develop support programmes and initiatives such as grievance mechanisms, risk assessment, product certification, labelling, monitoring and verification as well as to request transparency and due diligence in the recruitment practices of companies and suppliers within their supply chain.⁷
- ✚ During its two sessions, the Council called for the protection of persons with **albinism** who are victims of attacks and discrimination as well as stigma and social exclusion as a result of their skin colour. The Council even requested its Advisory Committee to undertake a study on the situation of persons with albinism.⁸

² Resolution : [A/HRC/23/L.1](#)

³ Resolution : [A/HRC/24/L.38](#)

⁴ Resolution: [A/HRC/23/L.28](#)

⁵ Resolution: [A/HRC/24/L.9](#)

⁶ Resolution: [A/HRC/24/L.11](#)

⁷ Resolution: [A/HRC/23/L.8](#)

⁸ Resolution: [A/HRC/23/L.25](#) & [A/HRC/24/L.36](#)

- ✚ With regard to **older people**, the Council called upon all States to promote and ensure the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for older persons, including by taking measures to combat age discrimination, neglect, abuse and violence, and to address issues related to social integration and adequate health care, bearing in mind the crucial importance of family intergenerational interdependence, solidarity and reciprocity for social development.⁹
- ✚ A working-group on the **rights of peasants** met for the first time in July 2013. Three panels dealt with issues such as the positive contribution of peasants to food security, the fight against climate change and the conservation of biodiversity, poverty and hunger, etc. The working-group will examine a draft declaration on human rights of peasants.¹⁰
- ✚ In her report on cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights, the High Commissioner deplores the **reprisals and intimidation against organizations of civil society**. These reprisals, she says, "take many forms, ranging from smear campaigns, threats, travel bans, harassment, fines, the closing of organizations, sexual violence, arbitrary arrests, prosecutions and lengthy prison sentences through to torture, ill-treatment and even death."¹¹ "It is primarily the obligation of States, she says, to protect those who cooperate with the United Nations in the field of human rights and to ensure that they may do so safely and without hindrance." She "reiterate(s) (her) previous recommendations for action at the national level, including through the adoption of appropriate legislation, by publicly condemning acts of reprisal and intimidation, ensuring accountability in relation to the majority of reported cases of reprisal, conducting effective and impartial investigations and bringing perpetrators to justice, and providing victims with remedies" (para 52).

Side events

- ✚ The African Union (AU) and the Organization for Islamic Cooperation (OIC) organized, during the 24th session of the Human Rights Council, a side event entitled **Women as Key Role Players in the Public Life and Decision Making Process**. Berhane Raswork, UFER representative in Geneva, had been invited to be part of the panel. Right from the start, she said "empowered women at all levels can contribute greatly towards the maintenance of peace and the advancement of development." Unfortunately, despite all the international and regional instruments adopted in the past decades, women continue to be victims of inhuman and degrading treatments. "Several traditional beliefs and practices, she says, are still preserved to maintain a lower status for women. Violence against women is prevalent worldwide. The prevailing patriarchal system is rooted on the subjugation and oppression of women using myths and false stories."

She also spoke about the horrendous trafficking of East African women as sex slaves and domestic servants largely to the Gulf countries. Thousands are trafficked as a result of poverty and vulnerability and submitted to degrading treatments. "The cruelty sometimes goes as far as losing organs such as kidneys". Ms. Raswork requested the AU and OIC countries to pay immediate attention to this issue and to adopt protection measures. "The traffickers should be brought to justice", she says.

Social mobilization at all levels is essential to ensure gender equality. This would mean empowerment of women with information and education, information and education also of the judiciary system regarding women's human rights and gender equality, involvement of religious leaders to promote the true teachings of religions regarding women, involving men and boys in the drive for gender equality and mobilizing the media.

⁹ Resolution: [A/HRC/24/L.37/Rev.1](#) (para 3)

¹⁰ Document: [A/HRC/WG.15/1/2](#), of 20/06/2013:

http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/WGPleasants/A-HRC-WG-15-1-2_En.pdf

¹¹ Report: [A/HRC/24/29](#), of 31/07/ 2013 (para 49):

http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session24/Documents/A-HRC-24-29_en.pdf

- ✚ In parallel to the 24th session of the Human Rights Council, UFER facilitated the presentation of a study entitled "**Human Rights Council - Convergences, divergences and resistance**" undertaken by Professor Pierre Binette and Philippe De Courval, master student, at the *École de politique appliquée* of the University of Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada. The two researchers presented a quantitative analysis of the Commission and the Council from 2000 to 2012 covering the totality of the votes of all the States as well as a brief analysis of its dynamic. They brought out the big issues that polarize the Council such as religious freedom and traditional values. An animated debate with people in attendance followed which showed the same divisions.

Other international events

- **A World Conference on Indigenous Peoples** will take place from 22 to 23 September 2014, during the 69th session of the UN General Assembly. The main objective of the Conference is to share perspectives and best practices on the realization of the rights of indigenous peoples and to pursue the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. A high-level panel took place, on 17 September 2013, during the Human Rights Council.¹² Several speakers insisted on the necessity to ensure a broad and effective participation of indigenous peoples in the preparatory process as well as in the Conference itself. Indigenous organizations have held several preparatory meetings, the last one in Alta, in Northern Norway, from 8 to 12 June 2013, with the participation of 600 representatives.¹³ States have been encouraged to contribute to the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples in order to enable a large number of indigenous representatives to go to New York for the Conference.
- The main theme of the next session of the **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**, which will take place in New York, from 10 to 21 March 2014, will be challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls.
- UN Women has a new Director, **Mrs. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka** from South Africa. She was the first woman to hold the position of Deputy President of South Africa, from 2005 to 2008. She became a Member of Parliament in 1994, chairing the Public Service Portfolio Committee. She was Deputy Minister in the Department of Trade and Industry (1996-1999), Minister of Minerals and Energy (1999-2005) and briefly served as acting Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology in 2004. Mrs. Mlambo-Ngcuka was involved in the struggle against Apartheid; she was the first president of the Natal Organization of Women, an affiliate of the United Democratic Front. From 1984 to 1986, she was the Young Women's Coordinator for the World Young Women's Christian Organization (WYWCA) in Geneva. This is where several of us got to know her. We are very pleased with this appointment. She succeeds Mrs. Michelle Bachelet who has just been elected President of Chile.¹⁴
- **Jean Ziegler**, Swiss sociologist, has been re-elected as a member of the Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council despite a campaign carried against him by individuals and organizations criticizing his position towards Israel. In 2002, as UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food, he published, for example, a very critical report on the situation in the occupied territories. Aware of the valuable work accomplished over the years by professor Ziegler in UN human rights bodies, UFER joined other NGOs in support of his candidature by sending a letter to the Swiss authorities asking them not to withdraw his candidature.
- The UN General Assembly, during its present session, proclaimed 2014 as **International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People**.

¹² Press Release of 17/09/2013:

[http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/\(httpPages\)/E1CC6209F0D8C681C1257BE900576873?OpenDocument&cntxt=FDEB3&cookieLang=en](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpPages)/E1CC6209F0D8C681C1257BE900576873?OpenDocument&cntxt=FDEB3&cookieLang=en)

¹³ On the site of *World Conference of Indigenous Peoples*: <http://wqip2014.org>

¹⁴ On the site of UN Women: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2013/8/new-executive-director-takes-oath-of-office>

- More and more questions are raised about the impact on human rights of big events such as the **World Cup and the Olympic games**. The recent demonstrations in Brazil and the information coming from Sochi and Qatar are very worrying. In a recent publication, the *Centre Europe-Tiers-Monde*, based in Geneva, condemns the destructions of neighbourhoods, expulsions, expropriations, land transactions, the furious pace imposed on the construction workers, as well as the corruption and the dramatic rise of expenses and debts generated by these grandiose events.¹⁵

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has issued a new Practical Guide for Civil Society: *How to follow-up on United Nations Human Rights recommendations*. It can be found on the Website of the OHCHR with other useful resources for NGOs:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/Pages/CivilSociety.aspx>

THE WORLD OF TRAFFICKING

By Colette Pasquis, member of the Editorial board

More and more voices denouncing human trafficking are heard, all over the world. During the accreditation of the newly accredited Ambassadors to the Holy See, on 12 December of this year, Pope Francis dedicated his speech exclusively to the issue of human trafficking, which he qualified as "crime against humanity". He calls for "a shared sense of responsibility and firmer political will to gain victory on this front".¹⁶ It is in that perspective that UFER is organizing a seminar, in March 2014, in Nepal (see programme on page 15). In preparation for this seminar, we wanted to reflect on the issue of prostitution in which many victims of trafficking finally end.

¹⁵ *La coupe est pleine! Les désastres économiques et sociaux des grands évènements sportifs*, Ouvrage collectif, avec les contributions de Patrick Bond, Eddie Cottle, Stephen Graham, Ashok Kumar, Fabien Ollier, etc. PUBLICETIM N°38, 144 pages. Voir le site du Centre Europe-Tiers Monde: <http://www.cetim.ch> (In French only).

¹⁶ *Address of Pope Francis to the new Ambassadors accredited to the Holy See on the occasion of the presentation of letters of credence*, on: http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/speeches/2013/december/documents/papa-francesco_20131212_credenziali-nuovi-ambasciatori_en.html

One clarification to start with: there is a difference between human trafficking and migrant smuggling which carries its own problems, just think about the drama of Lampedusa on the Italian coast. Trafficking is a form of modern slavery for forced labour, for domestic work or prostitution. There are sometimes bridges between the two. This text will deal essentially with prostitution. This is already a real nebula.

When you start to look for information on prostitution, be it among organizations working in the field or academic researchers, you realize that it is a minefield. The notions of right and freedom become blur. With the best of intentions various groups enter into opposition over the issue whether to legalize prostitution or not. With regard to statistics, I consulted various sources, which are listed at the end of the article. I avoided quotations in order not to overburden the text.

Statistics that speak for themselves

Prostitution comes third in the various criminal traffics after arms and drugs. In the countries where it is legalized, it tends to surpass drug. Because of the clandestine character of the phenomena it is difficult to evaluate the exact amount generated by prostitution on the international market, it varies between 12 and 30 billions of dollars.

There are statistics concerning victims of trafficking in different countries. For example, in Germany, between 150,000 and 500,000 women enter the country each year. Prostitution generates between 6 and 14.5 billions of dollars each year. We speak about female prostitution because young men represent only 2% of the world network. There are only a small number of women who use the services of *lover boys*.

The human cost for women prostitute is very high according to studies made by doctors and psychologists on violence in prostitution among 800 women from seven countries: Canada, Colombia, Germany, Mexico, Turkey, United States and Zambia:

- 71% of these women are victims of physical violence;
- 63% of rape;
- 80% would like to stop but they are under duress;
- 68% show signs of post-traumatic stress.
- Psychic dissociation is often found among prostitutes: *I sell my body not me*.

There is no other profession with such a level of violence. Reports coming from different countries show that the mortality rate among women prostitutes is 40 times higher than the national average. A United States study shows that women prostitutes are 18 times more at risk of being murdered than women in other conditions, whether prostitution is legalized or not.

Statistics provided by UNICEF in relation to children are appalling: ten millions children are reported missing, 100 millions try to survive in the streets, every 30 seconds a child is raped. One to two millions are recruited each year by the sex industries. In Africa and the West, 200,000 children are in the hands of traffickers. In Bangladesh and India, organizations of beggars mutilate children to arouse pity of donors, it seems a nightmare but it is unfortunately a reality. The food-processing industry is very well aware of the fate of so many children working 15 hours a day in banana and tobacco plantations or cacao fields. The fate of children working in shoe repair shops in Portugal or of 12 year-old girls spending the whole day in front of a sewing machine in Naples is not more enviable. And what about the Sarkozy law on *equal opportunity* allowing apprenticeship at 14 and night work at 15?

Legalization and criminalization

Associations working for the improvement of the life conditions of the prostitutes do not agree on this issue. Those in favour of legalization argue that if prostitution becomes a profession there will be regulations that will protect the sex workers who will be freed from the hands of organized crime. There were even attempts to syndicate them: *the Red Thread* in the Netherlands, *Coyote* in USA. Unfortunately, members were mainly activists who did not belong to the

world of prostitution; the prostitutes themselves were under represented. Countries such as Canada, Germany, The Netherlands and some Australian states have legalized prostitution. Results are not however up to expectations: trafficking has not diminished, clandestine prostitution has increased, and prostitutes are too frightened to claim their rights. Regulations seem rather to favour the procurers and the clients and also ... the governments. The latter perceive income taxes on a market of several billions.

Other countries such as Sweden, often given as an example, criminalize the clients and the procurers and set up services to reintegrate the prostitutes. The Swedish government force the clients caught in the act to follow courses in order to make them change their way of living their sexuality. Prostitution has considerably decreased in Sweden but the advocates of legalization criticize Sweden for having shifted the problem towards neighbouring countries. One should also think of a law that would seize the assets of the procurers and redistribute them to the prostitutes.

International conventions

At the beginning of the 20th century, two plenipotentiary conferences took place in Paris, in 1904 and 1910. They respectively adopted an *International Agreement for the Suppression of the "White Slave Traffic"* and the *International Convention for the Suppression of the "White Slave Traffic"*. In 1921, the League of Nations, two years after its foundation, rose up against human trafficking and adopted the *International Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women and Children* followed by an additional protocol in 1933. In 1949, the United Nations adopted the *Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others*, which entered into force in 1951 and has been ratified by 82 countries. In December 2000, a new Protocol to *Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children* was adopted to supplement the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Unfortunately, despite the commitment of the UN and its Member States, the behaviour of UN Peacekeepers too often promotes and contributes to develop the prostitution market.

Places of sexual tourism and providers of criminal organized trafficking

Southeast Asia is particularly targeted. Its past filled with wars, the military bases, contributed to develop a sub-culture of prostitution. There were times when the governments of these countries committed themselves to provide duly organized prostitution places to soldiers on American military bases. The economic repercussions were included in the GDP.

Trafficking affects every region of the world. In Africa, Nigeria is on top of the list followed by Cameroon. The whole of Latin America, from Mexico to Argentina, is affected, with a cocktail of arms, drugs and sex, as well as Eastern Europe. Western countries are, in addition, affected by internal trafficking, especially from the countryside to the city or from one city to the other. Globalisation is not only economic, hard pornographic magazines and films, cybersex stimulate morbid sexual fantasies that have no borders.

Sacred prostitution

The first mention of prostitution is found in the Epic of Gilgamesh, 18 centuries before Christ. Priestesses were used as prostitutes by priests and by other men, against retribution, for the benefit of the temple. We do not speak much about it today, but has it ever stopped? It still exists In India under various forms similar to ancient prostitution. In the West, it takes the form of abuse of power, without any financial retribution, by priests on children, nuns and credulous believers.

Again the body of women ...

In Nepal, recently, religious leaders representing various faiths expressed their commitment to work jointly to eradicate child marriage. The youngest case known was two years old. Money plays again a role, the dowry is lower for a child than for a young girl.

Domestic work for young women and children often goes along with prostitution by the males of the family. In Haiti, in addition to prostitution, which proliferates in the streets, there is also the phenomenon of the *restavec*, those who stay with, they are children from the countryside who are sent to the cities to be provided with schooling in exchange of domestic work, but this is often accompanied by sexual services.

A grey zone: surrogate mothers? This situation is legalized in many countries but it continues to be controversial because of the remuneration. There are real *baby factories* in India and now also in Nigeria.

Assistance and prevention

There are several organizations working on prevention and providing assistance in the West such as the *Comité d'action contre la traite humaine interne et internationale (CATHII)*, in Canada, Magdalena in France, the Dutch Foundation of Religious against Trafficking in Women (SRTV) and many others. A good coordination between the various services generally exist: police, immigration, shelters. In poorer countries, the situation is quite different; traffickers, procurers and corrupted authorities subject the few organizations that exist to persecution. Although assistance is necessary and even indispensable it addresses only the symptoms and the effects and not the causes.

Causes and solutions

Many reports come to the conclusion that without a demand there would be no prostitution. We must praise the work done for the reintegration of women prostitutes but, in order to go to the root of the problem, it is imperative to get to the users, or those we call the *prostitutes*. This is the choice made by Sweden, Norway and now France. But one could go further than just forcing them to follow courses that will enable them to understand that their behaviour generates organized crime and slavery. They choose to prostitute a person instead of engaging fully into a relation of equality. They try to hide a lack of humanity. Some consider themselves as benefactors reducing the level of poverty. Others go to regions where a natural disaster has just occurred and consider that by offering a shelter and a comfortable bed in a hotel in exchange of sex, they deserve recognition. There should also be sanctions to force these men to follow a therapy. Some are seriously ill, fond of violent sex, who otherwise would never go in therapy. They do not see that, through their craving for power, they have a destructive effect on these women whom they prostitute but also, in a certain way, on their own psyche.

A whole series of other causes can be identified: restrictions on immigration that push some into the nets of organized crime, wars, where armed violence is followed by sexual violence; complicity at high-level; the insidious inequalities between men and women that continue to exist; structural adjustments imposed by the IMF and the World Bank that bring entire populations into misery; neoliberal capitalism that reduces everything to a commodity and looks at things from the point of view of consumerism and financial income. This leads to the criminalization of economic relations. We have tried to identify the main causes but there are many others: the prevailing hypersexualization, the pornographic culture, the clichés such as the *oldest profession in the world, it cannot change, men need outlet...*

Why are we able to make progress at the scientific and technical planes and not at the human plane? The world of trafficking is like a pattern, a canvas of our political and social dysfunctions; we can pull the threads one by one starting with this thirst for unlimited growth that replaces the quality of life. Dany Laferrière (Quebec writer of Haitian origin) is right when he says: *Dollars are worst than cannons, they corrupt everything.*

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THE RIGHT TO DIE WITH DIGNITY

In the previous Newsletter of June 2013, we initiated a reflection on the right to die in dignity and on the various approaches adopted towards this period of life according to countries, cultures, philosophical conceptions or religious convictions. We published an article on the involvement of UFER members in palliative care in Bolivia. This time a testimony on the end of life care comes from South Korea.

The palliative care service of the "Jeon Jin Sang" Socio-medical center in Seoul, republic of Korea

by Marie-Hélène Brasseur

This service is part of a socio-medical project initiated in 1975 by a team of the Association fraternelle internationale/Intercultural Association (AFI/ICA). It is situated in one of the poor suburbs of Seoul. Right from the beginning, the aim of the project was to associate closely the social and medical aspects of our work and to adopt a global and socio- family approach of the persons in difficulty.

The activities of the Center include preventive and curative care, social and legal assistance, support for older people who are isolated and in need. There is also an after-school program that can accommodate 48 pupils as well as scholarships for kids in need.

During all these years and through various activities, we were often confronted with terminally ill patients. That is why, since 1988, we progressively specialized in palliative care at home as well as in hospital. This service provides ten beds and is available 24 hours by a team with an appropriate training and working full-time. The team includes two medical doctors, six nurses and two social workers. Several volunteers assist the team according to a pre-established schedule.

The global approach adopted with the patients and their families is made possible thanks to the complementarity of all the persons involved in our activities. The fact that there is no hierarchy among the caregivers facilitates a better solidarity among them at all levels.

Services provided by the JJS Center

1. The palliative care unit of the JJS clinic is mainly open to cancer patients whatever their social condition, philosophical, moral or religious convictions may be.
2. Our aim is to provide the patients and their families with all the assistance and support they need when the objective is not to cure or to prolong life but to "live better till the end; as long as life is there we concentrate on it". The global support by a multidisciplinary team allows a better control of the sufferings and other needs of the patients and their families.
3. The palliative care unit of the JJS clinic has three complementary components:
 - a) The external consultations with the day-care clinic for conscious and mobile patients.
 - b) The home service for the patients who wish to end their life at home, surrounded by their loved ones and in a familiar environment. This requires that at least one family member be present all the time and is ready to be a partner in providing care.
 - c) The hospital service where the atmosphere is quite different from the one in a general hospital. The limited number of beds (10) and the structure of the building itself are favourable to peace and human relations. The rooms, the living room, the small kitchen, the terrace, the prayer room enable families and patients to be among themselves or with the nurses and the volunteers. The relatives are admitted 24 hours a day.
 - d) When circumstances allow, the patient can go back home for certain periods. He/she can be readmitted if necessary.

Training place

Since 1992, the center receives students from medicine and nursing faculties for internships as well as volunteers and seminarians, who wish to share the life and work of the team for a certain period.

When possible, we get involved in the training not only of the volunteers, but also of the health professionals as well as the students. Some faculties of medicine have recently included palliative care in their programme.

With other teams sharing the same orientation, we have recently created the *KSHPC - Korean Society of Hospice and Palliative Care* with the aim of developing the knowledge of palliative care.

Financing of the JJS center

Since palliative care is not recognized by the Korean social security, we have been participating for the past three years in a research of the Ministry of health to establish the basic principles for the official reimbursement of such costs. For the moment, 55% of our work is financed by the incomes from patients and medical insurances and 45% of the expenses must be covered by donations from different sources ... not always easy to find ...

Conclusion

There would be a lot more things to talk about, but, as a conclusion, I think I can say, in the name of all those who are involved in this work, that life is worth living till the end.

"The sick person is unique with his/her history, special needs, individual beliefs, his/her search for meaning. His/her life has an incalculable value. That is why palliative care is against the use of intensive medication to prolong life as well as euthanasia." (From the Charter of the JJS Center).

Editor's note: In July 2013, Marie-Hélène Brasseur received the Seong-cheon prize, from the JW Foundation, a non-profit foundation run by the pharmaceutical JW Group, for her life-long efforts to take care of poor patients, free of charge, in the JJS clinic.

UFER CHRONICLE

AT THE ORIGIN OF UFER

THE STORY of the Grail Movement

By Joy Garland, UFER representative at the UN in New York and member of the Board.

The UFER Newsletter of June 2013 told about the origin of one of the two remaining founding members of UFER – the Association fraternelle internationale/Intercultural Association (AFI/ICA). The other founding member of UFER is the **GRAIL**, also known as GRAAL in Mozambique, Brazil, Netherlands, Portugal and GRAL in Germany. There are international Grail centers and teams in 17 countries with a widely dispersed membership in other parts of the world.

BEGINNINGS

In 1921, a Dutch Jesuit priest, Fr. Jacques van Ginneken, founded a small group called the Women of Nazareth, and in 1926, five of his graduate students at the University of Nijmegen joined, inspired by his vision of a women's movement that could change the world.

Ahead of his time, Father van Ginneken believed that there was an "elbow in time" opening up to where Catholic women who were not nuns, could dedicate themselves for the transformation of the world by leading a celibate life and committing all their possessions, time and energy as members of the Nucleus in order to reach out to other women in what by 1928 became known as the Grail movement.

One of Father Van Ginneken's band of five students, Dr. Lydwine van Kersbergen, in 1928 at the age of 23, became President of the Grail in Holland. It was in the 1930's, that the Grail involved thousands of women in grand dramas based on liturgical themes. Lydwine directed 3,000 women who performed "The Royal Road of the Cross" in Amsterdam's Olympic Stadium, which drew invitations from clergy to come to other countries and attracted more women to the movement.

In 1932, Lydwine went to England to help establish the Grail there, and in the midst of all her work, completed her doctorate in 1936 in linguistics. She then left Holland as head of a team of five to start the Grail in Australia. After

two years there, she was called back to Holland to begin preparations to leave for America to start the Grail. Joan Overboss, a Dutch Grail member, was selected to accompany her to the United States.

Joan worked in Germany from 1932 to 1939. When the Nazis took over the education of young women, Lydwine went to Germany, in August 1939, to help Joan close down the three Grail houses there and destroy lists of Grail members' names and locations. When Hitler came to power, the Grail movement was forced to go underground in Europe. In 1940, Lydwine and Joan got the last boat to the United States before the war broke out and were separated from Holland for four or five years.

NEW BEGINNINGS

After arriving in the United States, this Grail team was invited by Bishop Sheil of Chicago to run a summer camp for underprivileged children at Doddridge Farm on Chicago's North Shore. Once the summer camps finished, Lydwine and Joan organized their training courses for women who wished to deepen spiritually and use their gifts to help bring peace and justice to a traumatized world. In 1943, it became necessary for the Grail to set out from Doddridge Farm in order to find a place that better met their needs.

Coming to their aid was Monsignor Luigi Ligutti who was head of the Catholic Rural Life Conference. After hearing of Lydwine's desire to find a farm where American women could learn to live within the natural environment, grow their own food, develop art, music, drama within each season of the liturgical year, he told Lydwine she should contact Archbishop John McNichols of Cincinnati, Ohio.

The Archbishop gave his full support to Lydwine's plan and in April 21, 1944, assisted by a loan from the Archdiocese and an inheritance gift given by the family of Mary Louise Tully, Grailville in Loveland, Ohio became the permanent home of the Grail Movement in the United States.

THE GRAIL AND UFER AT THE UNITED NATIONS

From the beginning in the early 1950's, the Grail has been a founding member of UFER along with AFI (Association fraternelle internationale/Intercultural Association) and both organizations are represented on the UFER Board of Directors. The Grail representatives are active at the UN in New York City particularly with the Status of Women Committee, The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and Sustainable Development.

Although the Grail has its roots in Catholicism, it has evolved to include women who have spiritual aspirations, but may be of other faiths or unaffiliated with a particular religion. The name was chosen by the Co-founder, Jacques van Ginneken, S.J., both for its designation as the chalice which received the blood of Jesus, but also because the cup in non-Christian symbolism was representative of woman, open, waiting to receive, and life-giving. In other legends, the Grail has different origins and appearances.

As Grail, we seek to work for the UN's Millennium Development Goals in concert with others. We seek peace and justice with equality for women and for all regardless of country or national origin. We seek the restoration of the Earth after years of exploitation of its resources to the detriment of indigenous people and all life on the planet. We seek the energy of love and understanding to see our interconnectedness beyond separate tribes and nations as One Earth Family.

More information about the Grail movement can be found on the following Websites:

For the International Grail visit: www.thegrail.org

For the U.S. Grail visit: www.grail-us.org

For the Grail at Cornwall-on-Hudson, NY visit: www.thegrailatcornwall.org

Programme of the UFER seminar on human trafficking
Kathmandu, Nepal, 22-31 March 2014

Dates	Activities
22 March	Latest date of arrival
23 March	Visit of Kathmandu area (Hindu Temple, Tibetan, Buddhist Stupa)
24 & 25 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opening ceremony (cultural presentation: Nepali dances and songs), documentary, keynote speech) ○ Introduction of the seminar ○ Presentation of the situation in Nepal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Legal system ✓ Social & economic situation ✓ Discrimination based on gender and casts ✓ Child labour ✓ Situation of indigenous peoples
26 March	Visit of projects (Ekata Micro Credit for Women, Shakti Samuha, ATTWIN)
27 & 28 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Presentation of situations in other countries/parts of the world: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Asia ✓ Latin America ✓ Africa ✓ Europe ○ Presentation of what is done at international level: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ In UN organizations ✓ Regional organizations ✓ NGOs ✓ Conventions ✓ Networks
29 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recommendations of priorities and actions in view of next UFER GA (2014-2015) ○ Synthesis and plenary ○ Conclusion and recommendations ○ Kathmandu Declaration ○ Closure of the seminar
30 March	Visit of other interesting sites around Kathmandu (Bhaktapur, Nagarkot)
31 March	UFER Board meeting/free day for the other UFER Board meeting/free day for the other
01 April	Departure.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS & PARTNERS

- ❖ **Rosi Martin** from India accompanied four young girls from Kottayam and Ernakulam who took part in the 7th Girl Child peace Camp, in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 4 to 8 October 2013. Children from seven countries, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Philippines and Thailand participated along with a group of 18 Nepali children from different schools in Nepal. The theme of the camp was "Peace and Solidarity". The sessions were mainly interactive, hence they happily expressed their own views, listening to others and co-operating in group activities. The presentation by an Official from UNESCO brought out the importance of educating Women and how the Nepali women struggle to give proper education to their children especially girls.

The pride and happiness in presenting each one's country during the cultural sessions every evening were indeed quite obvious. Visits of cultural sites (Bouddha Stupa, Pashupatinaa temple, etc.) and of various organizations gave the children the possibility to get to know Nepal. A speaker gave them a picture of the political situation of the country, of the absence of women in the decision making process and of their struggle to be integrated in the political life at this crucial time of the history of Nepal. Women were candidates in the November election.

One of the organizations visited was Shakti Samuha, the first organization in the world founded by survivors of human trafficking with the aim of organizing and empowering women and children at risk of trafficking. The President of this organization is Sunita Danuwar, one of the members of the organizing committee of the UFER seminar on human trafficking that will take place in Nepal in March 2014 (see programme above). As one of the survivors said "we transformed our tears into Power".

Rosi Martin will take part in the UFER seminar in Nepal in March 2014.

- ❖ **Marie-Hélène Brasseur** from Korea took part in the World Congress of Women Doctors organized in Seoul, from 31 July to 3 August 2013, by the Medical Women International Association. As many as 1,100 participants from about forty countries took part in the Congress, among them 140 from Africa. The congress adopted resolutions on issues such as education of women and girls, violence against women, human trafficking, female genital cosmetic surgery, etc. In the evenings, participants could take part in very well organized cultural programmes from different countries. Marie-Hélène enjoyed being in an environment exclusively feminine and multicultural. It was much more relaxing than conferences organized by men doctors, says Marie-Hélène.
- ❖ On 22 October the **Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo**, in Argentina, marked the National Day of the Right to Identity, established in 2004 to honour their struggle to give back their identity to many children kidnapped by the dictatorship government between 1976 and 1982 and given in adoption. Since the creation of their association, 36 years ago, they have been able to identify 109 of these children. Unfortunately, several grandmothers have died without being able to take their own grandchildren in their arms.
- ❖ The **Union for the development of Humanity (UDH)**, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), continues its training sessions on human rights. From 28 September to 4 October 2013, a session was organized in Mbandaka, Province of Equateur, with 75 participants: students, deputies, lawyers, and militants of UDH as well as women victims of sexual violence. The latter talked about the traumatizing experience they had gone through during the war. "The war deprived us of our value as women", they said. In addition to the training provided in the morning, participants visited the central prison of Mbandaka, where they saw young children with their detained mothers. They also went to the hospital to visit a Pygmy who had been wounded by a policeman but was not receiving proper treatment. Following their visit, his situation improved. UDH intends to organize other activities in the province of Equateur where needs are immense. For this they need additional resources.

PUBLICATION



Baby Haldar

Anuradha Kandala recommends a book about the dramatic life of a young Indian woman, Baby Haldar, who left an abusive husband, in the late nineties, together with her two children, to go to Delhi and work as domestic worker. She suffered both physical and mental exploitation at the hands of several employers. Encouraged by her last employer, a writer and a teacher who recognized her potential, she started to write about her life. Her first book: ***A life less ordinary***, was published in English, in 2007, by HarperCollins Publishers, in New York. The book has been translated in 24 languages. That gave Baby immense confidence. "When my book was published, I would look at myself in the mirror and wonder if it was the same woman who had written the book. My world changed completely", she said.¹⁷ She is now writing her third book.

A Reminder

The annual membership for 2013 is of 35 € or 50US\$. It can be:

- # sent to the following account in Belgium
Banque Fortis: IBAN: BE50 0013 6970 0018 BIC: GEBABEBB
- # or transmitted to a member of the Board of Directors or the IS of AFI/ICA

We need your support for our future activities!

¹⁷ The Times of India, 6/11/2013, on Internet: http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-11-06/delhi/43731198_1_domestic-workers-bengali-second-book