



## THE GRAIL LINK TO THE UN NETWORK

UPDATE ON GRAIL AND UFER ACTIVITIES AT THE UN  
#1, January 27, 2010

### SOME OF THE NETWORK MEMBERS



**Joy Garland**, represents UFER with Sharon Joslyn and has focused on attending the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and The Interfaith Partnership for the Environment. Joy is a former science teacher at the United Nations International School and a community activist. As an educator, she is especially interested in bringing attention to the Earth Charter and fostering environmental literacy for children.



**Mary Gindhart** has been a Grail observer at the UN since attending the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China in 1995. She is a member of the Non-Governmental Organization Committee (NGO/CSW) that follows the work of the Commission on the Status of Women. Mary recently completed her term on the International Leadership Team of the Grail. She lives in Philadelphia and is part of the Philadelphia Grail Group



**Sharon Joslyn**, is the main representative for UFER in New York replacing Eileen Schaeffler who served in that position for many years. Sharon is a member of the Working Group on Girls NGO Committee on UNICEF. She, along with Mary Kay and Alma Agolli (an intern) are active with the WGG “Girls’ Participation Task Force” which aims to bring girls into active participation within the United Nations system, especially with the Commission on the Status of Women. Sharon also follows the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.



**Mary Kay Louchart** has been part of the Working Group on Girls NGO Committee on UNICEF for many years. She first got involved when Ann Marie Czyzewski was active at the UN. Some of Mary Kay’s current tasks are writing letters to WGG members and other NGOs coming to CSW asking if they will be bringing girls to the CSW. We have a goal of 75 girls. Mary Kay serves as the main representative for The Grail at the UN so is the one to register everyone who attends any of the meetings at the UN. Mary Kay is also a member of Religions For Peace: North American Women of Faith Network.

Pictured above: #1 Sharon Joslyn with some girls attending at UN meeting with some girls from the Academy of Mt. St. Ursula, #2 CSW participants in 2008: Jeanette Loanzon(Philippines), Mieneke Hage(Netherlands), Guida Santos(Portugal), Abida Jamal(Moçambique), Denice Milice(Moçambique), Margarita Cabrera(Bronx), Mbelu Kalala(Bronx) #3 Jenna Messier(far right) with participants at a Grail-sponsored CSW event.)



**Kate Twohy** is working with the Global Forum planning committee. The Forum will take place February 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> as immediate preparation for CSW-54. In addition to making suggestions for the panels and breakout sessions, she is working with GROOTS and others to see that the grassroots women are heard at the forum and during the two week sessions of CSW-54. Kate has joined the Sub-Committee of NGO CSW/NY on Climate Change and Gender under Anita Wenden and will report to the LINK team about what they are doing.

### **International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples (UFER)**

**UFER** has had special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1953. 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 among races, peoples, cultural and ethnical groups, in the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. **Monica Maher** (Boston) and **Elly Koenig** (The Netherlands) currently serve as UFER Board members. They attended the UFER Board meeting in Geneva last December.

**NEWS-** Grail Link to the UN...is happy to have two interns whom you will hear more from in our next issue. **Alma AGOLLI** has a MA in Political Science. This is her first involvement in CSW. She is excited to be working with the Grail and the Working Group on Girls. She created this newsletter. **Millicent Cavanaugh** has worked with various local and international non-profit organizations for more than ten years. She gathers agenda points, chairs the meeting and writes the report.

## **CSW**

Every year, we try to ensure an international Grail presence at the CSW. Monica Sophia L. De Leon from the Philippines will be attending this year. Along with Mary Robertson and Sheila Hawthorne from Australia, Albina Lemuesh from Papua New Guinea, Jeanette Loanzon, Monica participated in the Asia-Pacific NGO Beijing +15 preparation meeting held in Manila last October 22-24, 2009. At the international level, Monica represents the Filipino Grail on the Global Ecology /Earth Network and on the International Council. In the Asia Pacific Region, in addition

to the Beijing +15 meeting in Manila, she has established contacts with Grail women in Australia and Papua New Guinea through her participation in the World Youth Day 08 held in Sydney, Australia last July 2008.

Reflection of Monica on the experience of the Asia-Pacific Beijing + 15 meeting: *It was my first time to attend such an event and I as completely overwhelmed not only by the information being presented but also by the spirit and enthusiasm of all delegates from Asia and Pacific. But as the conference progressed, I*

*was able to relate myself to some of the stories and struggles of women discussed. There is still much to be done to empower women. I feel I have the responsibility to educate the young women I work with about human trafficking but also about other barriers to women development and dignity. I hope that in my own little way I can contribute to its fulfillment through the Grail's activities. Monica de Leon* (Two girls from the Home where Maria Carlos Ramos works in Madeira, Portugal will also attend. More on them next issue.)

## A WORD OF FAREWELL

We said ‘good-bye and thank you’ to Carolyn Hannan who retired on December 31, 2009 as Director of the UN Division for the Advancement of Women. We are grateful for Carolyn’s encouragement to the Grail over the years she worked here.

### Meeting between the GEAR Campaign and the UN Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro

**BY Mary Gindhart**

On November 12, 2009, GEAR (Gender, Equality Architecture and Reform) representatives met with the United Nations Deputy Secretary General (DSG), Asha-Rose Migiro, and delegates from the principal women’s agencies. The meeting took place on the occasion of the General Assembly adopting a resolution, which endorsed the creation of the new gender equality entity to be headed by a new Under Secretary General (USG). Civil society and the DSG scheduled this meeting to discuss how the process will move forward and to share intelligence about UN reform.

The first issue that the GEAR team raised was that civil society participation in the new gender entity must be meaningful throughout the transitional process and once the entity is arranged. Secondly, GEAR spoke about how this is a transformational moment where we are creating an organization that is a significant leap forward in women’s rights. Finally, the representatives made clear that GEAR regional focal points are strongly in support of a powerful field presence. The USG criteria that the GEAR Campaign created, was also presented to the DSG for further discussion and insight about a possible timeline for the appointment.

The DSG thanked GEAR for the USG criteria and shared that the groundwork for the USG appointment is in progress and they will be in consultation with Member States and civil society in the coming weeks.

She stressed the importance of GEAR’s political support during this process where there are many distractions in the path to gender equality at the UN. The process is moving forward very quickly and the proposal will be a clear starting point and base for the establishment of the new gender entity. The SG in December will submit the proposal to Member States so they will have it for the start of the intergovernmental negotiations in 2010.

The meeting concluded with a discussion between the GEAR representatives and the UN women’s agencies principals from OSAGI, DAW, and UNIFEM. The consultant working on the proposal, Sally Fegan-Wiles, highlighted the crucial need for civil society to put pressure on governments throughout this process and said she will continue to communicate with GEAR as they progress. The GEAR team will continue to share next steps for advocacy and communicate information once the report is made available.

## Sensational January 18, Event

On January 18, 2010 the Grail group together with the Girl Scouts of America and Girls Learn International had a wonderful pre-training event before the CSW. Nearly 70 girls from different schools took part in this event. You will read more about this in the next newsletter. You can visit the Working Group on Girls website at [www.girlsrights.org](http://www.girlsrights.org). Check out The Girl Effect video clip, one of the resources we used at the pre-training. The Action for Girls Newsletter is very good. And if anyone working with girls would like to participate in the Tool Kit from CSW-51, it would be greatly appreciated. We are currently working on health and poverty questions.

## Upcoming UN events IN New York City

Anyone wanting to attend any of the sessions at the UN has to contact Mary Kay Louchart for registration at [grail-ipt@juno.com](mailto:grail-ipt@juno.com).

**February 2, 2010** A Civil Society Forum for NGOs will be held at UNHQ in New York in preparation for the Commission on Social Development. View the flyer for the Forum at: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/ngo/docs/2010/csfinvitation.pdf>. To register, or for more information, please email [csocdcivilsocietyforum2010@gmail.com](mailto:csocdcivilsocietyforum2010@gmail.com)

**February 3-12, 2010 Commission for Social Development** The Priority Theme for the Commission for Social Development will be Social Integration. The website for the Commission on Social Development: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csd/2010.html> Documents including reports of the Secretary General can be accessed here: [http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csd/2010\\_docs.html](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csd/2010_docs.html) Information on NGO Participation in the Commission for Social Development can be viewed at: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/ngo/csocdinfonote2010.html>

**February 27 and 28, 2010** There will be an NGO Forum in New York City in preparation for the Commission on the Status of Women. There is a 2-day event before CSW 54. Information about the Forum can be found on the Forum blog here: <http://ngocswny.wordpress.com/> Registration can be completed online on the following link: <http://www.ngocsw.org/en/events/2010-forum>

**March 1-12, 2010 Commission on the Status of Women CSW-54** The topic for the 54th Commission on the Status of Women is the 15 year review of the Beijing Platform for Action, linking the Platform of Action to the MDGs. The website for the Commission on the Status of Women can be accessed here: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing15/index.html> Information on NGO participation in the Commission on the Status of Women can be viewed at: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/NGO.html>

## UN Events in the Netherlands

**24 – 26 February 2010, Rotterdam, Netherlands** “Confronting the Crisis Collectively: Working Together to end Poverty”, 7<sup>th</sup> Forum of the World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty organized by the UN Development Programme (UNDP). More information is available at: [www.wacap2010-rotterdam.nl](http://www.wacap2010-rotterdam.nl).

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