



Grail Link to the UN Network

Update on Grail and UFER activities



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“Women working together to bring about a world of peace, justice, equity and renewal of the earth”

CSW-56 Back Home Project

old. I used this opportunity to spread the theme of next CSW session.

I realize that through those events, it was possible to rise up the girls' and young women's self-esteem and confidence. Some of them join our group in combating of all forms of discrimination against girls and young women. All boundaries were left aside and we engaged in issues that affected us. Together with my fellows from the Grail youth Group, we are preparing the International Day of the Girl, 11th of October, with a lot of enthusiasm because we consider this day as an opportunity for girls to show leadership and reach their full potential. We are organizing a parade for that day; we already contacted our council representative to involve them in the celebration.

We plan to release T-shirts with a message related to girls issues indicating Mozambique statistics: data of illiteracy, school dropouts, forced marriage, violence and body image. Those T-shirts and bracelets will be worn every Friday from 11 September to 11 October to spread the message. We are preparing a drama scripted by all of us (Grail youth group) related to violence against girls that we will present in different schools especially on the 11th of October.

We plan to meet the Minister of Women and Social Affairs (already arranged for 19 July 2012) and some of our council representatives to get support and involvement on this BIG DAY.



Carmen Siteo (Mozambique)

I would like share with you what I did after attending CSW 56. I shared my experience with my youth group, Grail members in Mozambique, friends and my community members. Together with my fellow group, we organized a workshop in my community in May and July 2012 about the empowerment of girls and violence against girls. We had participation of girls and young women between 14 and 24 years



If you are interested in attending CSW-57, 4-15 March, 2013, start planning now.

The Priority theme: Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls. **Review theme:** the agreed conclusions from the 2009 session on "The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care-giving in the context of HIV/AIDS." (contact us at Grail-IPT@juno.com)



On July 9th, the second evening of the **Grail Women in the Americas** meeting in Mexico City, Sharon Joslyn shared information with the 28 participants about the Grail's involvement with the United Nations. Several of the young Mexican women helping with backstage had been to the CSW in previous years. (photo from Lucy Jones who also participated in the meeting.)



PREPARING FOR CSW-57

UN Women: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women hosted an online discussion July 23rd through August 3rd to prepare for CSW-57. Some Grail members participated in that discussion. We (GLUNN team) think it would be good for all Grail entities to discuss any/all of the questions that were shared during that discussion. The questions are:

- In your area/region, what measures have been introduced to prevent violence against women and girls?
- How have you promoted the safety of women and girls in public places, and what results have you seen?
- In your area/region, what are the services for survivors of gender-based violence? How much access do women/girls have, who are subjected to multiple forms of discrimination (for example, women and girls with disabilities, indigenous women/girls, migrant workers, women/girls living with HIV/AIDS?)
- What protocols, systems or networks ensure that these services are delivered in a coordinated way?

It would be very helpful to those who do participate in CSW-57 to hear your responses. It doesn't have to be a formal report—just send to Mary Kay anything that flowed from your discussion. (Grail-IPT@juno.com)



SOMETHING TO DO.....Related to CSW-57 theme



Unite to End Violence against Women and Girls! **ORANGE DAY!!!**

November 25th is the International Day to End Violence against Women. The UNiTE campaign proclaims every 25th of the month as Orange Day, aiming to raise awareness about the issue of violence against women and girls. What can you do? Here is something to do--next issue we will share more ideas.

- Wear orange on the 25th of each month and invite others to do the same

Visit: <http://www.un.org/en/women/endviolence/orangeday.shtml>



SOMETHING TO READ... Related to CSW-57 theme: Runaway Girl: Escaping Life on the Streets, One Helping Hand at a Time An astonishing story of triumph and a fierce determination to give back (more about the book in GLUNN Newsletter #8)



30 years anniversary of the Convention for Elimination of Discrimination Against Women celebrated at the UN

An excerpt from a report by Simonetta Romano

On July 9 the Committee of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) celebrated its 30 years of activities for promoting and defending women's rights all around the world. To mark this important occasion, the Committee held a panel discussion on "Women's Political Participation and Leadership", which Mary Kay Louchart and I attended.

The discussion of the panel brought forward some interesting ideas and practices on the necessity of expanding women's political participation and leadership for advancing their rights. Considering that women represent 51% of the population, we can easily see – if we look at our own countries - how we are under-represented in the rooms where many decisions affecting our lives are made. As Michele Bachelet (Executive Director of UN Women) as clearly stated in her statement at the panel discussion, "...yet the reality is that parliaments and governments composed mainly by men just cannot have the same sensitivity to women's concerns and women's rights."

The road to full implementation of the articles established by the Convention, is long and has taken many twists and turns, depending on the country and its political, social and cultural vicissitudes. The road is long, but we can see progress if we look at centuries of women's history, and be inspired to continue walking on it, and giving our contribution, big and small to a future where women's rights will not need to be protected any longer. As Eleonora Menicucci de Oliveira, Minister of Public Policies for Women in Brazil, stated at the event: "We, women, are creators of our own life stories. I am fully aware that I speak on the behalf of women and that, when they hear me, they are certain of just how far they can go. They can look at their daughters and be certain that, yes, a woman can do many things-even lead Nations."

(for Simonetta's complete article write to her at grailconhsimo@igc.org.)

For more on the work of CEDAW, and the 30years celebration, please visit:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/30thAnniversaryCEDAW.htm>



INDIGENOUS ISSUES from Joy Garland

PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES...follow up with: **GRAIL MEMBERS PRESENTING A WORKSHOP AT NATIVE AMERICAN CONFERENCE.** Joy Garland is a member of the NGO Indigenous Committee which meets the third Thursday of each month at the Church Center for the United Nations.

Grail members Theresa Dardar, Marian Schwab and I attended the 73rd annual (Kateri) Tekakwitha Native American Conference in Albany, NY., July 18-21. About 800 Native Americans, most of them Catholic, came from across the United States, to attend the meeting and to honor Kateri (the Lily of the Mohawks) who was born in Auriesville, NY in 1656, died in Caughnawaga, Canada in 1680, and is to be canonized in Rome on October 21st.

Theresa and I presented a workshop based on an 8 minute film that Theresa had seen: **THE UNFRACTURED FUTURE** that features Native American leaders like Chief Oren Lyons and Tiokasin Ghost Horse who spoke against fracking from the Native American perspective. The response to **THE UNFRACTURED FUTURE** met with an outpouring of praise, interest, and appreciation from the more than 175 Native Americans who were able to squeeze into the space at the Airport Holiday Inn.

After the discussion, we gave out 150 copies of where the free DVD could be obtained from the WESPAC Foundation plus Websites that offer information about fracking and what people are doing to get fracking banned in many states. Word spread to people attending different workshops, so the hotel staff printed more for us to give out! These tribal communities are mostly on the low end of the economy but on the high end of caring about Mother Earth, so I believe they would use the film to spread the word about the dangers of fracking to others.

Theresa Dardar, from the Pointe-au-Chien tribal community hit by the BP Gulf Oil explosion in Louisiana, followed my presentation with an 18 minute power point of photos of the aftermath of the explosion that killed 12 oil workers. Also birds, turtles, and sea life which had been contaminated by the oil and chemical dispersants sprayed by BP were killed. The livelihood of the hundreds of Gulf Coast Native Americans who were shrimpers, fishermen, and crabbers for generations was destroyed.

Theresa was at the United Nations in 2010 pleading her tribes' request for US recognition and the restoration of wetlands, a barrier reef, and levees to protect their tribal lands from being lost to the rising seas, when she got news of the BP explosion. She wants to expose the lies BP is telling the American people that all is now well and that those affected have been adequately compensated. Besides finding a vastly decreased number of their normal catch, Theresa feels the shrimp are so contaminated that she won't eat them, which makes putting food on the table even harder for the people.



The first photo shows the packed room (Joy and Theresa in the front), but doesn't catch the people standing or sitting in the aisles or the ones who couldn't get in because the room was filled. The second photo: Theresa in the blue shawl with her husband, Donald, behind her.

The third photo is Theresa and Joy.

1. Below is a link to photos taken at the Tekakwitha Conference of the workshop Theresa Dardar and I presented.

<https://plus.google.com/photos/112264703949200509077/albums/5768159029398379969?authkey=CJW45KWfzJfLqwE>

2. To obtain a free DVD copy of **THE UNFRACTURED FUTURE** you can call the WESPAC Foundation at 1-914-449-6514 or email info@wespac.org. You can view the film on your computer Google **THE UNFRACTURED FUTURE**.



Rio + 20 , 6/15-23 BRASIL



Participants from the Brazilian Grail who felt strengthened by this event and were excited to participate were: Eliana Rocha, Shirlei da Silva, Luciene Rodrigues, Ivanete Cordeiro, Claudia Laureth, Marina Kryvanik, Arlete Silva, Regina Paula, Nigemi Becheleni. Beatriz Oliveira.



O que vi e vivi na Rio + 20....Lucienne Rodriguez

Depois de toda uma preparação, já estávamos na Cúpula dos Povos. Lembrava muito os Foruns Sociais Mundiais. Uma efervescência de gentes, cores, manifestações, debates, apresentações artísticas, oficinas, exposição de produtos orgânicos, artesanato, sementes, tecnologias ecológicas, documentários....Muitos e muitas nações indígenas do Brasil e de toda América Latina. Processos difíceis e lindos ao mesmo tempo, como foi no final a **Carta dos Povos**. A Carta Final dos Povos começa dizendo que Movimentos de toda natureza que “vivenciaram nos acampamentos, nas mobilizações massivas, nos debates, a construção das convergências e alternativas, conscientes de que somos sujeitos de uma outra relação entre humanos e humanas e entre a humanidade e a natureza...”

Os temas que mais destacaram na Conferência:

- **Modelos de Desenvolvimento:** consciência de perceber que a Terra e a Humanidade são indissociáveis.
- **A questão do emprego e da pobreza:** Ação econômica e políticas sociais para criar trabalho remunerado, de qualidade, com proteção social são fundamentais para a coesão e estabilidade social.
- **Cidades Sustentáveis:** O eco-urbanismo como fonte de desenvolvimento sustentável para as cidades, cuidado com a qualidade da vida atual e das próximas gerações.
- **Alimentação:** As mulheres produzem mais de 80% da produção de alimentos no mundo. A questão da soberania alimentar é primordial para o desenvolvimento, para erradicação da fome e da pobreza.
- **Água Potável e Oceanos:** Cuidar desses recursos é cuidar do futuro das próximas gerações e da vida no planeta terra.
- **Desastres:** Muitos desses desastres estão associados à ação humana devastadora.

Pensar e agir simultaneamente no global e no local, eis o nosso desafio!

The People's Summit: It reminded me so much of the World Social Forums. There was an effervescence of people, colors, manifestations, debates, artistic presentations, workshops, exposition of organic products, crafts, seeds, ecological technologies, documentaries.... Many Indigenous of Brasil and of all of Latin America.

An example of a process that was difficult and beautiful at the same time is the writing of the final **People's Statement**. The letter begins speaking about Movements of all kinds: where we shared our lives together in our camp sites, in the massive mobilizations, in debates, in the construction of convergences and alternatives, conscious that we are subjects of another relation between each other as human beings, male and female, and between humanity and nature....”

There were thousands of people present at the People's Summit. However, only those like our 10 Grail participants could get into the official UN proceedings that occurred on the other side of Rio, very far from the Peoples Summit.

The outstanding themes of the conference:

- **Models of Development:** the perception that Earth and Humanity are inseparable.
- **Employment and Poverty:** Economic actions and social policies to create quality work with just pay, and social protections are fundamental for the cohesion and stability of society
- **Sustainable Cities:** Eco-urbanism as a source of sustainable development for cities, care for the quality of life and of the coming generations
- **Food:** Women produce more than 80% of the food products of the world. The question of Food Sovereignty is of prime importance for sustainable development and for the eradication of hunger and poverty.
- **The Oceans and Safe Drinking Water :** Caring for these resources and the life of the planet and the future of the next generations.
- **Disasters:** Many disasters are associated with human actions.

To think and act simultaneously on the global and the local--this is our challenge.