



Grail Link to the United Nations Network (GLUNN)

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



September 2016 Newsletter

Greetings. It has been a long time since we published this newsletter. We are hoping in the future we will share with you every few months about Grail and UFER activities. To get an idea of what some of the GLUNN members have been involved in we share:

From Mary Gindhart July, 2016

Yesterday I attended the monthly meeting of the United Nations Association chapter in Claremont. The topic was Peacemaking, Peacekeeping and Peace-building. One of the speakers mentioned that the sustainable goals need to be considered in the planning and implementation of each stage.

The new issue of Peace and Freedom, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom magazine has articles about the parallel event that explored the challenges and the possibilities of attaining Goal 5 of the SDGs and the UN Practicum on Advocacy they presented at CSW 60. (The Cornwall newsletter had a good article/pictures on CSW 60.)

From Mary Kay Louchart The NGO Committee on the Status of Women, New York

I attended the September Monthly Meeting: **Catching up and Preparing for the High Level Summit for Refugees and Migrants**. Speakers were: **Meg Jones** spoke in the place of Lakshmi Puri, UN Assistant Secretary-General, Deputy Executive, Director, UN Women and Chair of the UN Global Forum for Migration and Development; **Eva Richter** from the Committee on Migration; **Lier Chen**, former Interim Director of US Programs at HIAS (formerly known as the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society); Syrian refugees **Sana Mustafa** and **Patricia Talisse**.

Lier gave some overwhelming world-wide statistics 65 million displaced persons, 21.3 million refugees, 1.8 million asylum seekers, 38 million internally displaced persons—4 million just in Syria. Such suffering in the world! **Eva** spoke about the September 19th High Level Summit for Refugees and Migrants. She gave these websites: www.refugees-migrants-civilsociety.org, and, Women in Migration Network wgmwg.org. The focus of the Summit is based on Ban Ki Moon's report: In Safety and Dignity. She stressed: our task now is to work for the empowerment of women, not just protection of women.

From Lillian Wall: PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Lillian Wall, Joy Garland and a few others have been following closely the work of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples. They attend the monthly committee meetings. The United Nations Decade on Indigenous Peoples concluded at the end of 2015. This committee is now identified as the NGO Committee on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The meeting was dedicated to current concerns and actions regarding Standing Rock Sioux Dakota Pipeline. Violation of the sovereignty of Standing Rock Sioux Territory. It is recognized that the construction of this pipeline poses an environmental risk as well as disregard for the sacred land of the Standing Rock Sioux in violation of treaty and international law. International attention has been aroused and members of First Nations and others including indigenous people from around the world have showed up in solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux. In this movement those present have declared themselves protectors as opposed to protestors.

Celebration of the International Day of the Girl (IDG)11 October 2016

Grail members who attended CSW in previous years or Sacred Activism July 2015, are taking seriously the challenges set before them. All girls deserve equal access to healthcare, education and basic human needs. Here is some sharing from IDG 2016 by Grail members.

What Counts For Girls
Girls' Progress = Goals' Progress
Empower Girls = Change the World

AUSTRALIA

Brisbane

Packing of Day for Girls bags and sends to Ethiopia for girls in need.

MEXICO

Morelos 11 Days of Action –

How can we empower our girls? 8th October – Football day with girls; Event on “Tienes algun talento?”

Los Reyes

8th October – Day of girls’ presentation.

Oaxaca

11th October – Chats, murals and coexistence activities.

MOZAMBIQUE

Maputo

September – Workshop on Advocacy Skills and awareness on SDG’s in different communities and parishes.

15th October – Parade around Maputo Town in partnership with other NGOs.

22nd October – Donation of sanitary towels to orphanage.

Beira

May-September 2016 - Workshop on girls’ right in 5 parishes of Beira Diocese.

11th October - Radio interview

16th October – Parade with all participants from the 5 parishes around Beira Town

PAPUA NEW GUINEA (PNG)

Wewak

3rd-6th October – School Awareness on SDG’s and Girls Right

10th-14th October – Girls Advocacy at the settlements in Wewak

15th October - Pink Parade around the town in Wewak

16th October – Mass at the Cathedral



PORTUGAL

Madeira – Girl Effect --

Create a Wall asking “What does it mean to be a girl?”

Collected from different parts of the world.

Carolina Matos

shared: our decoration for the event we are having this night! We'll have a dinner to celebrate this amazing day.

We are uniting 40 girls from various parts of Madeira Island. Hope you all have an amazing day!!



Coimbra – Girl Effect
10th October – Movie
session: The flower of
Desert. At Casa da Esquina
Associacao Cultural



SOUTH AFRICA

Nina Hendricks wrote: Yesterday we celebrated the International Day of the Girl Child in Cape Town. Thank you to all involved for making this day



Western Cape 16th October – Sunday at Catholic Welfare and Development Centre in Athlone

Johannesburg Palesa Mbali Radebe shared that in a Soweto Primary School, 25 girls were given sanitary packages. They got this idea from the Australian Grail group! Global partnership!

USA/The Bronx

From **Sr. Alice Marie Giordano**, with whom the Grail works closely in the CSW work. She brought 17 girls to the event at the Girls' Speak Out in the ECOSOC Chamber of the UN.

Girl Advocates moderated the event and spoke about the issues of marginalized girls, girls in politics and the reality of girls supporting girls. (Photo at right shows AMSU girls in the ECOSOC chamber.)

Patricia Hajdu, Canada's Minister of the Status of Women, (Canada's parliament is 50% female), spoke of appreciating the contributions of girls now as leaders of the present, not just the future. She urged all to leave no one behind especially girls who are among the most marginalized. Lakshmi Puri, Executive Director of UN Women said, "A girl with a dream is on fire!" She stressed the importance of the need for attention to data about the number of girls victimized by sex selective infanticide, stolen childhoods due to labor, trafficking, child marriage and violence. She urged governments to invest in the support of girls.

Girls from all over the world were asked to submit material to be presented at this celebration. There were short videos (one presented by the Grail Youth Group in Mozambique) and live presentations about Islamophobia, Black Lives Matter and Leadership promoted by organizations like the Grail, Plan International, the Bella Abzug Leadership Institute, the Alice Paul Institute, Girls Learn International and the Girl Scouts. Poetic pieces (one submitted by AMSU Lucemy Perez, another by Khensani Nhambongo from Mozambique Grail), interspersed between presentations touched the hearts and spirits of all attending. All who experienced this day carried with them strains from the song, "This Girl is on Fire" and the message of Emma, a girl advocate who said, "We need to be each other's safe spaces. We need to be each other's champions."

The Girls' Speak Out can be seen in its entirety at www.webtv.un.org



Other Grail members submitted reports, written and in photos, on the Sacred Activism Facebook. Contact Abida Jamal at azeja72@yahoo.com if you can't get into the site yourself. There is wonderful sharing!

LOOKING AHEAD:

The 61st session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will be 13 to 24 March 2017. The focus is as follows:

Priority theme: Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work

Review theme: Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls

Coming to CSW is not only a unique international experience with several thousand women in attendance, it is a time to grow together as Grail around our vision for the world. Anyone interested in attending the CSW should contact Mary Kay Louchart at Grail-IPT@juno.com. She will send the application. (It does not cost to attend UN sessions but there are daily living costs, about \$30 per day, and the subway pass, another \$30+ per week.)

If you have not as yet seen the Grail's CSW-60 Report, contact Mary Kay. Also, go to the Working Group on Girls (WGG) website girlsrights.org and you can hear **Mila Mussimana** from the Mozambique Grail Youth Group giving the Girls Statement during CSW.

Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) 17 Days and 19 Days of Activism—2 WWSF campaigns to help transform our world.

- 1) 17 Days of Activism for the Empowerment of Rural Women and their Communities 1-17 October. There is an empowerment kit, English and French, which offers 17 themes and ideas for action. Included are relevant targets of the new Sustainable Development Goals—Agenda 2030. Share your activity online at www.woman.ch.
- 2) 19 Days of Activism for Prevention of Violence against Children and Youth 1-19 November. The Prevention kit includes 19 themes and ideas for action. The campaign ends on 19 November, the International Day for the prevention of child abuse. If you take an action, register it online so we can be a support to each other: www.woman.ch. As with the 17 Days campaign, the kit is in French and English and includes relevant targets of the SDGs.

The second annual Solutions Summit is a catalytic gathering that took place at UN Headquarters in New York 21 September 2016 during UN General Assembly week. For 2016, the Solutions Summit will highlight projects that advance the objectives of one or more of the following upcoming global Summits and Conferences for 2016 and 2017:

> *UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants - UNHQ NY - September*
> *UN Habitat III Conference - Ecuador - October*
> *UN Climate Change Conference - Morocco - November*

> *Open Government Partnership Global Summit - France - December*
> *UN Oceans Conference - UNHQ NY - June 2017*

This newsletter is actually being sent out on **October 17th**, The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty – or [#EndPoverty](https://www.endpoverty.org/). Tell your country's policy-makers that you expect more action on inequality reducing policies. [#ItsPossible](https://www.endpoverty.org/) to #EndPoverty when we work together. <http://wrlld.bg/leDr305c7b2>



The Secretary-General's UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign proclaims every 25th of the month as Orange Day! Wear ORANGE every 25th!

Finally, we offer congratulations to the new UN Secretary General who will take over from Ban Ki Moon in January. Mr. Antonio Guterres knows the Grail so we look forward to keeping that connection.