



Newsletter June 2017
P.O.Box 540082 Bronx,
New York 10454 718-665-
0271 Grail-IPT@juno.com

Grail Link to the United Nations Network (GLUNN)

CSW-61

From Sr. Alice Marie Giordano, O.S.U., Academy of Mt. St. Ursula, preparing for CSW-61
On Valentine's Day students from the AMSU and students from Cathedral High met each other by Skype. The girls introduced themselves and shared their reasons for becoming involved in CSW. Many spoke of the desire to support girls who are victimized and to work for the gender equality that is due to girls. The AMSU girls explained the work of the WGG, the wonderful help that Mary Kay and Sharon give us and the great fun of attending the Day of the Girl, Teen Orientation and the Parallel Events at the CSW. The Cathedral Girls told us about the development of their club and the efforts they are now engaged in to make it a Model UN. We all participated then in student led interactive activities. The first was the privilege walk, an activity that helps all to realize some of the privileges we all take for granted. The second was a sculpting activity. A statement is read and students shape the body of another student to express what the statement means to them. As these are explained there is great insight gained about the true situation that girls face in our world today. We were really pleased to meet each other over the internet and look forward to getting together at the CSW. Below are some girls from both schools.



Sr. Alice took the photo and at the far right is a teacher from Cathedral High, Anne Andersson.

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CSW over the past ten years... DO YOU READ OUR REPORT? If not, Mary Kay can send you a copy. The 51st session of CSW in 2007 was the first that the Grail decided to fund girls from all over the world to attend CSW and be involved in events that allow the girls the space to stand and speak out rather than having Grail women speak for and about them: now we heard the voices of the girls speaking for themselves. We are so proud of all they have done. The girls themselves prepare their presentations and all are pleased with their delivery! We are indeed proud. The whole Grail can be proud!!! And grateful!!!
WELL DONE, GIRLS! (Below is CSW-61 Grail presentation)



CSW BACK HOME PROJECTS

The girls who attend CSW are expected to do a ‘back home’ project. It can be whatever they would like, big or small, but must be part of the CSW experience. Following are some excerpts of three projects.

1. Nansubuga Catherine from Uganda:

The main activities to be carried out will be

- Organising workshops to train the girls and young women with skills in beadwork, knitting and crochet - How to start an organic vegetable garden and wine making.
 - Conducting community meeting to impart awareness of the importance of work and good behaviour especially to the girls. This will be done by getting resource people from organizations, Church and within the community itself. Flyers/booklets will be made to give out in schools and the community about importance work (however small) and behaviour change
 - Formation of a girls’ club. In this club girls can interact and talk about different issues, like school life, income projects, behaviour change, how to help each other in times of need.

2. Khensani Nhambongo from Mozambique

My back-home project “The Power of Girls in Implementing the Sustainable Developing Goals” had its first activity on May 27th. The theme was “The Sustainable Development and Me!” and it was basically an introduction of what the Agenda 2030 is and how we are all involved and must participate in the implementation of each goal. The Grail Mozambique Facebook and Instagram pages have photos and info (Facebook – Graal Mozambique Instagram– @graalmazambique). Objectives of the project are:

- Introduce the Grail and the Sustainable Development Goals to girls and young women;
- Create a safe space where girls and young women can interact about the SDGs and other topics that represent major concerns for them;
- Promote the understanding of the individual role of each of us in implementing the SDGs.

1. **Ana Barata and Mónica Freitas**, who represented GRAAL **Portugal** at CSW, reported on their experiences at a gathering in Coimbra and demonstrated how the time spent in New York enriched them. . "My goal now is to demonstrate to people that CSW exists and to explain to them what it is," says Monica, disappointed with the population's lack of knowledge about the project.

The session also had a debate between the speakers and the public from which various proposals appeared. The group, which has six members, has proved to be receptive to all proposals.

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UNPFII.

You may have read about it on Facebook but we include a few excerpts here for everyone. The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) is a high- level advisory body to the Economic and Social Council with the mandate to deal with indigenous issues related to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights. The Forum in 2017 was April 24th through May 5th. Sharon Joslyn, Lillian Wall, Mary Kay Louchart, Margarita Cabrera, Gregoria Flores, Veronica Pakari Guaján , Monica Maher, Lucy Jones, Simonetta Romano attended various sessions during the Forum. If you would like the Grail report of some of the sessions attended, please write to Mary Kay at marykaylouchart@gmail.com. It is basically what we put on Facebook. If you would like an official report, google: Indigenous Forum 2017.

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GLUNN INTERNS: a letter has been sent to all Grail countries explaining our internship program. If you have not as yet seen it and are interested, either speak with your Grail National Leadership Team or write to Mary Kay. The internship is for girls age 22 to 32, January through March, 2018.



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) is the main United Nations platform dealing with sustainable development, and was formally established in July 2013. It meets every year under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, and every four years under the auspices of the General Assembly.

Major Groups and other stakeholders have been granted comprehensive participatory opportunities in the HLPF. Some of the New York area Grail members will be attending. Relevant stakeholders shall be allowed to:

Attend all official meetings of the forum;

- Have access to all official information and documents;
- Intervene in official meetings;
- Submit documents and present written and oral contributions;
- Make recommendations;
- Organize side events and round tables, in cooperation with Member States and the Secretariat;

You can find out more information at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/majorgroups/hlpf>



Celebration of the International Day of the Girl

On December 19, 2011, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 66/170 to declare 11 October as the International Day of the Girl Child. The designation of October 11 as the International Day of the Girl Child is, according to the United Nations, a day meant to focus "attention on the need to address the unique challenges girls face and to promote girls' empowerment and the fulfillment of their human rights".

All of us are invited to celebrate this day. Use it to take actions and raise awareness of local and global challenges and issues that are faced by girls, but also consider solutions, and motivate engagement.

There are nearly 600 million girls aged 10 to 19 in the world today, each with limitless individual potential, however they are disappearing from public awareness and the international development agenda. Between inequities in secondary education to protection issues, adolescent girls are uniquely impacted and should benefit from targeted investments and programs that address their distinct needs.

One big issue that is standing in the way of girls' progress is child, early and forced marriage. The data is daunting—one in three girls in developing countries (except China) get married before they turn 18. Girls who are child brides miss out on education, are more vulnerable to physical and sexual violence, and bear children before they are physically or emotionally prepared. The cycle of violence that begins in girlhood,

carries over into womanhood and across generations. The 2030 Agenda must address their needs and unlock their potential.

Investing in adolescent girls can have a formidable ripple effect to create a better world by 2030. and we would like to have Grail teams and individuals organize a program or activity for and with girls to celebrate the day. We can also interact and share with each other what we are doing to observe this very important day for the girls through our Facebook, emails, etc.

Girls are brimming with talent and creativity. But their dreams and potential are often thwarted by discrimination, violence and lack of equal opportunities. There are glaring gaps in data and knowledge about the specific needs and challenges that girls face.

Use any of these issues or others faced in your area to do a project in October. We will be writing to you again soon with the plan from the Working Group on Girls. You can find some information related to the IDG (International Day of the Girl) on dayofthegirlsummit.org/ and www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/girl-child

Related to but a different project.....



GIRLS & YOUNG WOMEN LEADERSHIP PROGRAM FOR THE INTERNATIONAL GRAIL

Based on our experience with the Commission on the Status of Women and the Sacred Activism program at Cornwall, we propose a five-year Girls & Young Women Leadership Program on the Sustainable Development Goals. This program builds on the need and the direction set at IGA 2011 to prepare young women better for the CSW experience and to engage Grail communities in the topics of the CSW both before and after the actual event of the CSW. This project would provide invaluable Grail formation and outreach to girls and young women, and connect the gifts and graces of the local Grail community to the larger international connection. **THIS WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE IGA. PERHAPS YOU WILL DISCUSS IT IN YOUR COUNTRY BEFORE THE IGA ITSELF.**

NEED STATEMENT. Building confident and long-term commitment of young women to take their rightful place in their communities is a key component for breaking the cycle of inequality and disenfranchisement of girls' voices and contributions to society. Women have been the backbone of the fabric of communities, and strong leadership into the future is critical. There is also a powerful need in these times for understanding across cultural, national, racial, ethnic and religious boundaries. The CSW participants in 2016 wrote a statement challenging the Grail to create an action plan based on the SDG. **WE LISTENED AND THIS PROPOSAL IS THE RESULT.**

MEASURABLE GOALS. The goals are to train and reach at least 4,820 girls and young women over a five-year period. Twenty young leaders from ten countries will be initially trained to replicate the training to a total of 800 women after five years. Together they will develop at least ten local projects to meet their challenges whether it be early marriage, human trafficking, environmental degradation or other issues as identified by the local team and related to the Sustainable Development Goals. The local projects will impact an additional 4,000 young women in the local settings over a five-year period to create a critical mass for dynamic movement on the identified issues. **NOW, OBVIOUSLY THIS IS JUST A BRIEF DESCRIPTION. DURING THE IGA, EVERYTHING WILL BE DISCUSSED, CHANGED,**

DISCUSSED AGAIN UNTIL WE COME UP WITH THE VERY BEST PROGRAM THAT WE
THINK CAN HELP THE GRAIL ANSWER THE QUESTION: WHOM DOES THE GRAIL SERVE?