



GRAIL LINK TO THE UNITED NATIONS NETWORK

(Coming to you a bit late as too much going on! Enjoy!!)

Report: an appeal to protect the rights of the Ohlone tribal peoples' to their ancestors burial ground

(by Joy Garland) On June 3, Dr. John Grim, a professor at Yale University, contacted me. John is the editor of "Indigenous Traditions and Ecology" and very involved in Native American Indigenous Affairs. His email described what was happening to the Ohlone tribal community's burial grounds in Berkeley, California. John wrote to me because he knew that I was one of three NGO Grail members active on the Committee on Rights of Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations.

On June 21, I made the presentation about the Indigenous women who led the movement to protect the oldest burial and village site presently under a parking lot from the West Berkeley Investors who are seeking to build restaurants, apartments and a parking garage on top of the site where their ancestors are buried. I printed and distributed copies of Abel Gomez's Call to Action. Anyone interested in receiving a copy, contact me: joy.garland@verizon.net.

CoNGO Report (Committee on NGO Consultation with NGOs in Consultative Status with ECOSOC

(by Sharon Joslyn) This meeting was held at UN Headquarters on June 22, 2018. 50 NGOs commented on ways to improve relations with ECOSOC. Geneva and Mexico had their commentaries on video.

Some of the commentaries most voiced were the following:

1. To assist the Global South participation in important UN sessions funding for travel is needed, social media space provided for those unable to travel, UN sessions in other parts of the world.
2. Visa denials prevent especially the participation of the Global South. NGO/CSW is currently working with UN Women on this issue.
3. The application process for new NGOs is difficult. Certain Human Rights NGOs have been denied or have had their participation limited. Applicants should receive clear guidelines. A contact person should be provided to answer questions. An orientation for new NGOs to learn how to manage the UN system would be helpful. When an application is denied, the reasons should be clear and there should be sufficient time and opportunity for the NGO to defend its organization.
4. NGOs need to be a part of the Outcome Document Process as observers with the opportunity to submit interventions.
5. Indigenous Peoples participation needs to be enhanced; they should be invited to engage in hearings and panels. Indigenous Peoples have much to contribute to UN work. Although in the process, the GA has not yet provided solutions.
6. Member States and NGOs are complementary to each other. The relationship should be one of trust and respect, not adversarial. To implement the 2030 Agenda for SDGs they must work together.
7. Consultations such as this with CoNGO and NGOs need to be held frequently.

High Level Political Forum 9-18 July 2018 by Mary Kay Louchart

The theme is: Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies. The HLPF is reviewing progress towards the following SDGs: 6, 7, 11, 12, 15, 17. During the HLPF, 47 countries are presenting VNRs: Voluntary National Reviews. The country reports can be found on line at sustainabledevelopment.un.org. The Grail countries giving VNRs this year: Australia, Canada, Ecuador, Mexico.

Bits and Pieces from HLPF....at a session on water.

+the problem is NOW, not just for the future generations.

+Mexico and The Netherlands, joined by South Africa, championing the issues of water and youth.

+90% of natural disasters have to do with water: too much or too little

+water is a fundamental human right.

+Youth through ICT networking and volunteering will make the difference in finding solutions to the water crisis. Older ones' responsibility: with open ears and minds: pay attention to the youth: they are the innovators.

+youth must be part of the decision-making.

+youth need to not only speak up; they need to 'be' the change!

+must do things fundamentally differently...think outside the box.



At a side event sponsored by the Working Group on Girls (Raising the Needs of the Girl Child) and moderated by two Girl Advocates (above), one of them spoke about how impressed she was with the life stories of two girls during the previous year: those girls were both from our Grail groups! We (GLUNN) were struck as it reinforces the importance of bringing girls to the UN. They make an impact not only on participants in general, but especially other girls.

BETH ADAMSON by Abida Jamal and Mary Kay Louchart

Beth Adamson (pictured above) of the WGG passed away on Saturday Afternoon August 11th after been in hospital for 2 weeks from a car accident on July 26th. It was at the HLPF, just after the event where our two girls facilitated a session, that was the last time I saw Beth. We walked a block together talking—her very animatedly! -- about how great the event was and how good our girls were, etc.

The Grail CSW has worked closely with Beth for many years through WGG (Working Group on Girls) advocating for the rights for and empowerment of girls. She always appreciated the contribution of 'our' girls. For all who attended CSW in the past, we're sure you remember the enthusiasm that this woman used to transmit to work on behalf of social justice for women and girls within the domain of the UN. Some of us worked directly with her during our Grail-CSW Internship on some of the committees such as Mission Advocacy, Girls Participation, Girls Statement, etc. Let's keep Beth's legacy alive. A Luta Continua!

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM by Abida Jamal

Between July 17th and August 1st, the Grail in Mozambique held the Grail International Young Leadership Training program. 20 young women from 11 different countries participated in the training and joined the other Grail women there to form an international community for two weeks. The program brought together two strong components of the Grail work: young women's empowerment and spiritual search. The different sessions of the program aimed to strengthen the participants' leadership skills as change makers of their communities while also nourishing the participants' spirituality to help them combine their activism work with their spiritual journey and foster sacred activism. The two weeks also offered an opportunity to learn about the world gathered on the Spirituality Center where the training was held. Every evening, all participants got a chance to share about their countries, their culture, their work and their passion. At the end of the program, each participant made the commitment to take back home her learnings and experience to work for her community on a project connected to the UN Sustainable Development Goals--commitments to strengthen the Grail work worldwide for the achievement of this global agenda that is the responsibility of each and every one of us.

FILAC: Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean

Thursday, 12 July, by Sharon Joslyn

Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and Caribbean from the Indigenous Peoples Viewpoint organized by FILAC.

Participants at this event were mainly Indigenous Peoples. The presenters and the participants spoke clearly and passionately about what must be done to improve implement the SDGs for Indigenous Peoples. The report below reflects some of the ideas they presented:

- What do we have to do to conscientize our people on the ground on awareness of SDGs?
- How can we work with the State to present our proposals and solutions for implementation of SDGs? How can we touch the conscience of our politicians?

We must implement the SDGs on the Global, National and Local levels. But we are not being heard on the National level. Latin America is better off than Asia or Africa but still we do not have a meaningful dialogue with government. We are not heard at the National level, but here at the High Level Political Forum, delegates want to engage with us. We must find a way that 'people on the ground' will be heard.

Next year (2019) is the year of Indigenous Languages. We are losing our culture as we lose our languages. We need bilingual education to be enforced.

- We need.... control of land and resources with land rights, not just in words.... What we need are actions. Land decisions are still in the hands of the government.
- protection for the defenders of the land and of our rights. There are so many today assassinated for speaking out.
- recognition of our traditional practices for conservation. No one left behind" where is that? We must put pressure at the Global and the National levels. To do this, we need solidarity among each other. We need to learn from each other.
- to find how to work against structural racism. Indigenous Peoples are being persecuted. It is a great challenge.
- space for youth as decision makers.
- recognition of Indigenous women's' rights. We women see ourselves as generators of life. We are the ones who sustain the family. The issue of women is very contentious.... funding for our projects.
- people to understand us. We need people to stand by us. We need to restore deep, meaningful relationships with the environment. This is not just for the benefit of Indigenous Peoples. This will benefit everyone, the whole planet.

We have many problems. Let us share solutions.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL---Thursday, October 11, 2018 (by Abida Jamal)

While there has long been an International Women's Day and an International Day of the Child, neither of these days recognizes the unique position of girls who are discriminated against simply for being young and female. The International Day of the Girl (IDG), celebrated annually on 11th October, is a day to recognize and support girls' rights and to end global gender inequality. It is an opportunity to bring global focus to girls' rights, the challenges that girls face in their everyday lives and to empower girls to bring a positive change to the world.

As a member of the Working Group on Girls (WGG), The Grail/GLUNN continues to commemorate this day each year with gatherings in different Grail countries! 🌸🌻

Launched in 2012 by the United Nations General Assembly, some of the issues focused on by the IDG over the years include education, equality, child marriage, access to services regarding puberty and sexual health and addressing issues around gender-based violence.

One of the biggest celebrations of this day is the Day of The Girl Summit which is held at the United Nations headquarters every year. It aims to bring together organizations that serve girls to further the advancement of girls' human rights 🌍. All over the world, there are marches and special events such as concerts and sports events to mark the occasion. In a global "takeover", girls get the chance to take over key roles in business, politics and sports for the day and their stories are shared on social media with the hashtags #girlstakeover #dayofthegirl and #girlhero!

This year GLUNN, through the Grail International IDG network, will make sure that girls all over the world are celebrated! We would like to know what you have in mind for the celebration of the International Day of the Girl – 11 October. What will you focus on? To celebrate this day, you can come with a variety of ideas. Share with us your plans, photos, stories, and videos of your celebration in your country. (Facebook: the grail sacred activism program 2015 – Cornwall)

Remember that there are 1.1 billion girls in the world, and every one of them deserves equal opportunities for a better future. They are a source of energy, power and creativity. They can drive change and help build a better future for everyone, yet, most girls continue to face disadvantages and discrimination on a daily basis. We must join the movement to make a difference in their lives.

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN: 63RD SESSION by Mary Kay Louchart

We have been talking about CSW-63 for several months and now is the time to see who is able to be part of our delegation in March (11th-22nd, 2019). Priority theme: Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; Review theme: Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development.

The Grail and UFER will again sponsor two parallel events related to those themes. Are you interested in attending? We ask participants to arrive in New York by March 7th in order to be adequately prepared for CSW and for living in an intense community for two weeks! We have our own orientation and there is a Working Group on Girls orientation as well for girls and young women. Grail Communications contact persons and International Council members will be receiving applications. Contact them or me grail-ipt@juno.com. Applications are due October 31st.

On another note, we happily announce our 2019 interns: Ana Barata who works with the Grail Girl Effect program in Portugal. She attended CSW two years ago. Coline Bruintjies from South Africa. She attended the Sacred Activism program at the Grail in Cornwall two years ago and has been part of programming for the International Day of the Girl. They arrive in January. WELCOME!

A TASTE OF CSW 'BACK-HOME' PROJECTS OF CSW-62 PARTICIPANTS:

CSW is always inspirational and opens up many opportunities for the participants to take actions when they return to their countries. That is the reason why following CSW participation, each participant is asked to start a project in their communities. Here are a few.

*****Carolina Nava Placenta, Mexico:** Start SDG classes at High School students. She will work with kids for the entire school year

*****Celia Gois, Portugal:** shared her experience at CSW 62 with Girl Effect in Madeira and also with the group from Girl Effect in Coimbra. Also with a new group of girls and young women that was created from her participation at CSW.

*****Myriam Casalone, Italy:** She participated at Grail Meeting in Milan and shared her experience and feelings about participating at CSW 62. She felt welcomed. She also talked about organizing an IDG event in October and she got support from The Grail. The event will be aimed at girls and young women, where she will show the documentary about Malala and from there have a debate on the importance of education for girls.

*****Puleng Goldygirl Phakati, South Africa:** reported on her CSW 62 experience to the Grail group in Kwazulu Natal and in Gauteng and also in her school. Puleng had challenged the girls to form a book club where they will read a book and then come together to share on the theme and message of the book and how it could or does impact on their lives. She plans to organize the IDG with Emthonjeny girls. (We will share more next issue.)

*****Rachelle van Andel, The Netherlands:** shared her experience with the Grail members at Grail House in Utrecht and also at her church where she used to lead services. She focused more on raising awareness on SDGs and she continues mostly with young people and outreach to other young people who are working to broaden her network and educate herself more about what's happening in The Netherlands. She will be organizing 3 evening events about the SDGs at the Grail House in September during the week for peace. She plans to have an activity on the International Day of the Girl.

*****Sofia Moreira, Portugal:** shared her experience with the Girl Effect and Grail members in Coimbra. Initially Sofia was planning to organize a workshop on cooking for boys and young men but she realized that she needed more time to organize that and she shifted it to organizing a campaign about the importance of Feminism to young men. The goal was to find boys on the street and ask them to tell her how feminism could be good for them and take a picture.

*****Eda Ipek, Italy:** raised awareness on Gender Based Violence in private sector through approaching a company where her cousin is a CEO and talked about the issues and handed over a symbol of that in form of cup/mug written on it Gender Equality to be placed in visible place for everyone. She also committed to take the celebration of the IDG to a school in Turkey where her cousin is a teacher there. She proposed to the school to make a video about what is to be girl in that community and share with others in social media.