



GRAIL LINK TO THE UNITED NATIONS NETWORK NEWSLETTER July/August 2019

This newsletter is longer than usual. However, there is so much inspirational activity among our young women, we want to share it with everyone. Thus, a longer newsletter. Do enjoy and be inspired. (Mary Kay)

GRAIL INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL (IDG): 11 October. Every year since the IDG was proclaimed, participants from the Sacred Activism program at Cornwall and CSW, Grail groups have been observing the day in very creative ways. A few have been: hanging posters in the trees of a park, holding a parade, putting up posters in a university town, holding a Mass, organizing fun days for children, holding workshops, inviting inspirational speakers, etc., etc.... What will you do this year? We want to hear. We would like to put something about your work in the newsletter of the Working Group on Girls (WGG) as well as in our own GLUNN newsletter and the ILT's newsletter. So, organize, carry out, and share with us.

CSW-64 ...will take place in New York, March 9 to 20, 2020. Every year the Grail invites girls and young women to attend CSW. We can guide you with preparatory reading material. If you or someone you work with are interested, write to Mary Kay for more information. The costs are: transportation to get here, room and board at \$30 per day, metro card is \$33 per week, whatever spending money you want.

The main focus of CSW-64 will be a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. This will include an assessment of current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and its contribution towards the full realization of the 2030 SDG Agenda.

Two important notices:

1. This is the last call for intern applications. Due September 15th. Though not a paid position, it is a great opportunity for a young Grail woman 22 to 30 years of age to grow in the Grail as well as serve a very important role in the Grail's presence at CSW! Those interested should contact Mary Kay at grail-IPT@juno.com for an application. Final intern choices are made October 15th.
2. Due to loss of housing possibilities, we need to limit our numbers in 2020. We can take 5 girls, 14 to 18 years and 5 young women, 19-28 years old, and possibly 5 adults as chaperones. If the young women can serve as chaperones, this gives opportunity for more to participate. Request applications from your NLT or Mary Kay. Your NLT has to approve all applications.

In both cases, it is important that 1) applicants have a passport, 2) start working on visas as soon as they receive an acceptance letter.

NEWS FROM CSW-63 BACK HOME PROJECTS

Gabriela Perez, USA...Gabriela is collecting feminine hygiene products for girls who are homeless, and those living in shelters, refugee resettlement homes, and in foster care settings. She's helping the regional chapter of an organization called I Support the Girls by collecting tampons, pads, liners, and underwear. She has been attend different events and talk about the issue and asks for donation.

Kimy Chadreque, Mozambique...Kimy started to organise workshop in her school to promote girl's rights, with aim to contribute with the increase number of girls with quality education and zero harassment. Also will help to eradicate early pregnancy and early and forced marriage. The activities will run from July to November for a total of 5 sessions, with a greater focus on promoting girls' income. The first session occur in July 24 with a group 50 girls between 15'18 years old from grade 10, where it was noticeable almost a total ignorance of their rights, and the lack of access to information as one of the reasons for this scenario.

Elsa Nogueira, Portugal...Elsa brought together for a week, at Grail Centre in Golega, a diverse group of young people from 3 countries Portugal, France and Romenia, where discussed the climate crises and youth impact in it with more emphasis on plastic. Each participant is committed to go back home and do something in their communities The next meeting will be in France, in February 2020, about interculturality and the 3rd will be in Romania about gender equality.

YOUNG WOMEN LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM COMMUNITY WORK ...A year ago, a group of young people start a journey to contribute for the transformative action for a sustainable community development, social justice and peace. The journey continues and here are some echoes received from them:

Naome Rusera, Australia...“Returning to Africa after so many years away was a blessing. I thank the Grail for providing me with the chance to be part of a community that seeks to unite and empower women from all around the world. I felt privileged to be seated next to incredible women from all walks of life and participating in discourse that other women don’t have a chance to do. The training focused the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs). Therefore, upon my return I knew immediately where to begin. I have used my involvement at the University of Queensland to help educate many students on what they can do in their community to achieve the SDG goals. There is no doubt that my experience in Mozambique has had a significant impact on my identity and daily decisions.”

Mangia Macuacua, Mozambique...She choose to work with SDG5 – Gender Equality and she organized training for 30 young women between 18 to 35 years old, in the themes of Human Rights, Gender and Feminism, with objective to construct transformative approaches among young women, ensuring the mastery of concepts of human rights, feminism and gender for better application in everyday life. The participants have to replicate the training in their community.

Caroline Mutimbanyoka, Zimbabwe... continues to work with marginalized women on Income Generating Project. In May they received some funds to expand their vegetable gardens and introduce mushroom-growing as a means to reduce poverty and provide for their families. Their hopes are high even with so many challenges they face: unstable economic conditions, lack of training in basic business, financial literacy and marketing skills, lack of bigger spaces to allow expansion, lack of mentorship support and programs to ensure continued learning for success(leadership capacity building), lack of administrative support. They wish to expand their small business initiatives and market their products.

Monica Feitas, Portugal...Organizing workshops about culture and community in different schools. Also involve in projects related to SDGs. Using theatre of the oppressed methodology to work with communities in Madeira Island on Gender Inequality, environment issues and discrimination of minorities. She created a new project, called “Projeto Wo(Men)”, and she has been doing some activities about gender equality and social justice.

HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM—HLPF—July 2019

from Sharon Joslyn At the HLPF annual meeting on SDGs, 51 countries presented their Voluntary National Review (VNR) under the Theme; Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality. Grail countries presenting were : Brasil, Philippines and South Africa. Reviews focused on six priority Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): SDG 4. Quality Education; SDG 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth; SDG 10. Reduced Inequalities; SDG 13. Climate Action. SDG 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions; SDG 17. Partnerships for the Goals. In this last HLPF meeting in the first four-year phase of the 2010 Agenda, UN officials stressed the need to bring specific commitments for action for the September 2019 Summit. ECOSOC President Inga Rhonda King stated that “We owe it to the children to realize the future they want”. Mary Robinson said in one of the three keynote addresses: The 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change can no longer be considered voluntary.” Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General stated that “climate change is moving faster that we are.” For continuous information on SDGs, sign for the SDG Update Newsletter (International Institute for Sustainable Development)

from Lisa Petro Over the past 10 years, GLUNN has emphasized the need for support and collaboration with the girl child. Through our programs during the CSW, membership with the WGG, and activities for the IDG, we have upheld the importance of adolescents and children having a voice.

During the HLPF, several sessions addressed the current state of the SDGs. At a UNICEF event, Small Asks for Big Impact: Investing in the early years for sustainable development and peaceful societies, a panel spoke on the intersections of child development and peace.

In the opening session about the neurology of trauma and development in children from birth to adolescence, exploring the range of adversity from neglect to violence and sex trafficking, Dr. Charles Nelson (Director of Research, Boston Children's Hospital) shared some staggering statistics, pointing out the 75 million children in the world under the age of five are in crisis, and one third of children under the age of 18 years suffer from abuse.

Dr. Rima Sala, chair of the Early Childhood Peace Consortium, spoke on the prevention of violence and advancement of peace in childhood and adolescence by calling attention to four tenets:

- Persist in knowledge and address gaps in science and research
- Design/implement programs that integrate peace, human development, and cultural sensitivity
- Promote successful experiences in various countries and cultures
- Unite strengths and emphasize investment for programs

Lastly, Nargis Bigzad, Direct Response Associate of the International Rescue Committee, shared her personal experience as a victim of domestic violence while living in Afghanistan, trapped in an arranged marriage. Unable to pursue an education and afraid for the life of her son, she fought for two years to gain full custody and took advantage of a VISA to the United States as an interpreter for the US Military. She described her struggle with homelessness while in New York and discrimination.

These highlights reinforce some of our own stories, while opening up new ideas of opportunity to work with girls and fortify programs. **In what ways can we support women in working with adolescents? ** How can we use research to inform our own work? **How can we contribute to combating the severity of trauma for children? ** In order to create an end, we must go back to the beginning.

YOUNG WOMEN PARTICIPATION IC MEETING



GLUNN was pleased with the backstage crew at the recent International Council meeting. Those from outside of Tanzania had in some way or another been part of our efforts of the past few years. Masengu Kalala (Bronx, NY) is an amazing support during CSW, teen orientation facilitator, and back stage of YWLTP in Mozambique. Noelina Nakabuye (Uganda) participated in the YWLTP in 2018. Maya Gallardo (Mexico) was a participant in Sacred Activism at Cornwall in 2015, a CSW participant in 2016, back stage for YWLTP, participant in Indigenous Forum in 2019. Khensani (Mozambique) has participated twice in CSW, was a GLUNN intern, back stage of YWLTP in 2018. Ana Barata (Portugal) participated in CSW in 2017 and was a GLUNN intern in 2019. Montse Fregoso (Mexico) (in front on the ground) was a CSW participant in and GLUNN intern in 2018. Asteria Massawe (Tanzania) also in front, completed the team. Maria Carlos Ramos, back row, from the ILT worked closely with the team.

During the networks' presentation, we had the opportunity to share what GLUNN does and also how we, young women, link with other women and girls, with the GLUNN, with the UN organizations (and other organizations of course) but mostly, how we learn to be and to work with Grail women.

Tina gave a short introduction about the SDG's which is the agenda we work as network; Khensani spoke about how GLUNN is a space to become aware of all the threats that the planet faces as we share and attend (following the networks presentation idea), Montse shared her experience about how is it to link with GLUNN before, during and after the CSW experience; Ana spoke about the chance to relate and work from the local to the global through the partnerships and the networks; and Maya closed explaining how this experiences and work is creating a platform where girls and women from different generations, backgrounds, countries and cultures can create identity and act for social justice for women.

Ana went on the SDG TOUR and shares here: The greatest richness of the Grail is diversity. Diversity is what characterizes and what makes the Grail movement alive. My trip in Tanzania, Uganda, and Kenya, in addition to being a real adventure, was also a contact with different realities from those I had already experienced. It was a first contact with different cultures, but also with the Grail in these contexts and the way the Grail was developed and how it is interpreted.

The distance between places seemed small as we travel to places where we have never been. Traveling gives us space to understand and explore diversity. So, traveling makes us more resilient. Beyond all the things that I keep in my heart, resilience is the watchword, the word that I want to share here and that accompanied me over a month of travel and an issue that I would like everyone to think about. What does resilience mean? Are we available to develop our resilience? Are we resilient in unusual situations? Are we resilient when we contact with diversity?

I want to end saying that in every Grail center or place where the Grail is present, I was received with love and all I met inspired me in many ways. For all of you who were with me: thank you for making this adventure wonderful.



UGANDA at the Social Centre in Mushanga, Winifred Nyongozi(Ug), Ana Barata(Pt), Montse Fregoso(Mx), Prisca Kyatusimiire(Ug), Lidia Martins(Pt), Florence Asimwe(Ug).

ANA shared about being in the Backstage Being on the Backstage was a moment to meet Grail friends again, to meet new people and a moment of sharing. Furthermore, being part of this team was an opportunity to know more about the Grail, the structures, mission and vision and about the Grail work in different countries. It was a time to live and feel the spirit of the Grail.

And my team? My team was wonderful. Each of them supported and helped me during the two weeks of hard work. They really have a space in my heart. We talked about our experiences in the Grail, about our lives; we laughed, we cried... well, it was a time full of emotion.

Being in Backstage was a real challenge for me. A challenge that came in the right time and I accepted with joy. Once again, I am very grateful for the opportunity that the Grail provided me.

BEIJING +25 YOUTH ENGAGEMENT Beijing+25 (2020): Celebrating 25 years of championing women's rights

The Fourth World Conference on Women marked a significant turning point in achieving the global goal of gender equality. An unprecedented 17,000 participants attended, including 6,000 government delegates, 4,000 accredited NGO representatives, a multitude of international civil servants and around 4,000 media representatives. Due to its empowering and long-term impact on women's rights, the Platform for Action is reviewed and appraised every five years to continue to implement its commitments. 2020 is a time to review. For more information visit:

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/get-involved/beijing-plus-25>

GENERATION EQUALITY FORUM



...is a global gathering for gender equality, convened by UN Women and co-chaired by France and Mexico, with the leadership and partnership of civil society. Building on the Beijing+25 national and regional reviews and CSW-64, in 2020 the Forum will kick-off in Mexico in 7-8 May, and culminate in Paris on 7-10 July. Recognizing that the driving energy for the promotion of gender equality and women's rights has come from the women's movement, the raison d'être of the Forum is to give women's collective action a boost. The Forum is envisaged as a global public conversation for urgent action and accountability for gender equality. It will celebrate the power of activism, feminist solidarity and youth leadership to achieve transformative change. At a moment when the pushback on multilateralism and women's rights is strong, the unique approach of the Forum will be a necessary counter response. The outcome of the Forum will be the setting up of Action Coalitions - an urgent, joint action agenda by a group of committed stakeholders. This will be taken to the UN General Assembly in 2020.

A cohesive 9-month process of feminist knowledge-generation and priority-setting that:

- ++Begins now with this process kick-off
 - ++Extends through the CSW64 which identifies key issues areas
 - ++Moves on to Mexico City in May where the most significant obstacles and gap areas and Action ++Coalitions to address them are confirmed
 - ++Culminates in Paris in July of 2020 in global buy-in for the Action Coalitions and their roadmaps
- 11-13 SEP The process will include:
- ++A feminist space for agenda setting
 - ++A global public conversation on gender equality and accountability
 - ++A set of concrete, measurable steps (with actions and investments) to create impact over a 5-year period that will be monitored (a roadmap to equality)
 - ++Outcomes that can be taken to the General Assembly in 2020

UN EVENTS COMING UP.....

- ++UN General Assembly – 17 to 30 September – New York, US (convene on Climate Change, Sustainable Development, Financing for Development, Small Islands Development States)
- ++SDG Summit - 24 to 25 September – New York, US (review progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)). <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgsummit>
- ++International Day of the Girl (IDG) – 11 October – UN Headquarters, New York, Your Community, Every corner of the world! <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/girl-child>