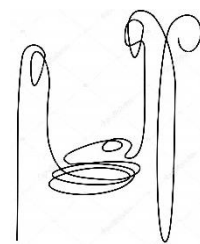




Merry Christmas and Happy New year

As we journeyed together this year, so many things happened that our bi-monthly newsletter was bursting with energy! And now, we are 'on countdown' to celebrating 25 years of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. We will be asking you to reflect on what was achieved, challenges we still face, etc. and share those reflections with us. *Mary Kay for the GLUNN team*



CSW64 / Beijing+25 (2020)



The main focus of the session will be on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. This assessment will address current challenges that affect the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and its contribution towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We have an exciting group coming for CSW in 2020! You've already 'met' our interns: Carolina Nava from Mexico and Noelina Nakabuye from Uganda. They arrive in January and we'll have them write something more themselves then. The selection of those who will be able to attend already has been made. The Grail will be represented at CSW-64 by 15 participants from the following countries: Canada, Mexico, Mozambique, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, Tanzania, Uganda and US, including 6 girls and 9 young women who will share their experiences and work they have done in their communities. We will have both the girls' parallel event and the Sacred Activism event during CSW.

Continued echoes of the IDG 2019

From Portugal

In **Chamusca region** (near to Golegã) facilitating workshops raising awareness of inequalities of rights and opportunities between boys and girls with 130 students,

In **Sertã Town** there was an exhibition focusing on activists such as Malala, Amika George, etc. in three schools (first grade to the high school) and asking what it means to be a girl in Portugal.

In **Madeira Island**, the Girl Effect project had a photography exhibition, "The Power We Have Inside", aiming to reinforce that all girls are capable and need to recognize their power. They also had a flash mob. The complete report is in the December ILT newsletter. You can see their activities at this website:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lpGQf4xKyVc&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1m4EdTAXcFuf2_k7h5WwCdgRZUcGSXIhwzGuntDEX1fSYY3hXJEqmdlME.



From Mexico, Cherán

The Grail in Mexico (both groups: North and South) and the promoters from the Cherán community decided to carry out an activity for the third year in a row now. They promoted a workshop in 2 different schools with girls aged 8 to 13 years.

The workshops included activities and dynamics, where the importance of the central theme of the International Girl's Day was first affirmed and emphasized, although a great deal of our work was also carried out on the re-evaluation and reflection on the characteristics of girls in the community, as well as the importance of their roles within their home and also of their family.



CSW63 Back Home Project

Gleds Rafael, 28 years old, Mozambique

She has been working with young women in her community, where they meet monthly and discuss various issues of their daily lives as women, thus empowering them and making them know their rights. She focuses on economic empowerment, because she believes that women are key actors in development, as they are a catalyst for economic, political and social change and transformation. Contributing to their empowerment is a medium- and long-term investment for greater prosperity, competitiveness and development processes. Investing in women has effects that far outweigh individual impact because women multiply the investment that is made in their future by improving the living conditions of their families and communities. She uses Network Marketing methodology used today by various companies to spread their business. She has a network of 9 young women, married and single. Whenever possible another woman is invited to give her life testimony.

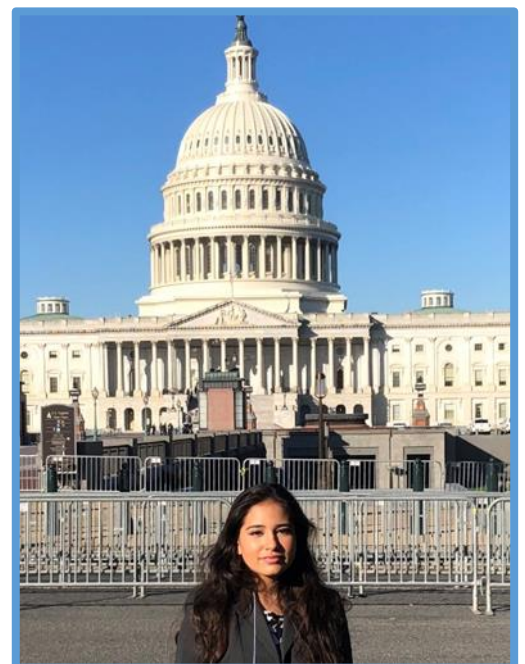
Kimy Chadreque, 14 years old, Mozambique

She is already in the final phase of her BHP and wants to leave some reflection points here. She works with 60 girls from her school with the objective to empower them. Through this empowerment they come to understand that they have a contribution to make for the development of the country. With her back-home project, she managed to understand the problems that she and her peers face on daily base and together can look for the solution to overcome them. Her Back-Home Project became other girls back home projects! She saw a change in a short period of time among other girls and herself. Through the 5 sessions, the girls start to stand up and speak out about so many problems that they faced at school like sexual harassment, bullying in high rate. Together they look for the causes and they created an awareness campaign with support from the principal's office. They felt empowered with this move. The Back-home project resulted in her having new friends and became a peer counselor, inspiration for other girls. With this activity, she gained strength to combat teacher harassment and sexual abuse of the students. She believes that with such programs, girls gain the courage to fight the violations of their human rights (Kimy is the girl with string of girl cutouts).



Gabriela Perez, 18 years old, Florida-US

Now a college student at St. John's University in New York, she continues her advocacy work on health and well-being of women and girls, as part of her Back-Home Project. She recently traveled to the Capital of the United States with the Hereditary Angioedema Association (HAEA) to advocate the awareness of HAE: Hereditary Angioedema., a rare genetic disease that causes extreme, painful swelling throughout one's body. One's face, mouth, throat, intestinal tract, genitalia, and limbs may swell up causing agonizing discomfort. Before 2009, there was a 40% mortality rate for those with HAE due to the lack of research and new medications. She was diagnosed with HAE when she was nine so knows how difficult it is to live with a serious condition firsthand. So, she feels obligated to continue her advocacy for the awareness of not only HAE, but all rare diseases in need of more research. She asked the legislators to support the Safe-Step Act. And also, she asked the legislators to support the Access to Marketplace Insurance Act. She emphasized the need to improve medications and create new therapies for people with disabilities so they may have a functional life. She will not rest until all these are accomplished.



Young Women Leadership Training Program – Community Project

Mangia Macuacua, Mozambique

Having participated in the leadership training program for young women in. I committed myself to implementing an activity that could bring about change in my community, putting into practice the skills learned in the training program. With the help of other young feminist activists, we created a feminist school, which provided a platform for 30 young women from all walks of life. The aim of the training was to build new transformative approaches from the perspective of human rights, gender and feminism, strengthen the feminist movement and create a committed women's group capable of moving forward on the SDG-focused gender equality agenda. The group of young women formed from the training, are developing various activities, such as socio-political dialogue, feminist bonfires, conversation wheels among young women. Their involvement in the transformation of the world has been active and promising, assuming that there is a spirit of leadership, engagement and empowerment in them.



LOOKING AHEAD: We will have a YWLTP in Mexico, October 4-17, 2020, for young women 18 to 28 years old. Start thinking who might come from your area. Information will be circulated among Grail members in early January.

Elsa Nogueira, Portugal

I had the opportunity to attend a workshop organized by the European Women's Lobby (EWL), which took place in Brussels on 8-11 November. We lived these days in reflection, sharing and sorority. These four days of reflection helped us identifying some important barriers to the involvement of young women in the feminist movement, such as the poor projection and visibility of women's organizations or the complexity of the International and European human rights framework. From the suggestions made, I underline: (1) the creation of mentoring programs where more experienced feminists can support young women in their activism; (2) a more inclusive and welcoming approach, recognizing young women as an added value that should be integrated into the work of organizations; (3) holding young feminist meetings, where girls and women meet and bond and learn about women rights and related topics; (4) the integration of young women in General Assemblies and board positions. These recommendations will be considered in February 2020 by the members of the Board of Directors of the EWL. I was very pleased that some of the recommendations made by the group are already common Grail habits. I felt lucky to belong to a movement where I feel like I can speak, learn and be myself.



Things to follow...

Commission for Social Development - 58th Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD58)

Date: 10 – 19 February 2020

Location: United Nations Headquarters, New York



COMMISSION for SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

United Nations Headquarters, New York

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Division for Inclusive Social Development



#CSocD #SDGs #GlobalGoals WEBSITE: socialun.org/csocd

Priority theme:

Affordable housing and social protection systems for all to address homelessness.

Representatives of Member States, UN entities, and ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from all regions of the world are invited to attend the session.

International Women's Day

Date: 8 March 2020

Location: around the world.

The theme will be "I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights". Join us in calling for actions towards gender equality and women's empowerment around the world.



Commission on the Status of Women (see first page of newsletter)

Indigenous Forum - 19th Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)

Date: 13 - 24 April 2020

Location: United Nations Headquarters, New York

Theme: "Peace, justice and strong institutions: the role of indigenous peoples in implementing Sustainable Development Goal 16"

The Forum will assemble socialists, human rights experts, environmentalists and economists to focus on the indigenous issues on the social, cultural and economic developments, education, health as well as human rights and environmental impact.



Generation Equality Forum

Date: 7 - 8 May 2020 **Location:** Mexico City, Mexico (Kick-off)

7 - 10 July 2020 **Location:** Paris, France (Culminate)

The **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. Twenty-five years after the historic Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the most comprehensive blueprint to achieve women's empowerment and gender equality, the Forum will take stock of progress and chart an agenda of concrete action to realize gender equality before 2030, as part of the groundbreaking, multigenerational campaign, "Generation Equality: Realizing women's rights for an equal future".



High-Level Political Forum

Date: 7 - 16 July 2020.

Location: UN Headquarters, New York

Theme: "Accelerated action and

transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development"

The HLPF and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs, provides for the full and effective participation of all States Members of the United Nations and States members of specialized agencies. In 2020, 50 countries (27 first time presenters, and 23 second time presenters) will present their national voluntary reviews to the HLPF. The Grail countries giving VNRs in 2020: Kenya, Mozambique, Papua New Guinea and Uganda.



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT