

*IBVM and CJ working together for a more humane, just and sustainable world*

**UN NGO Office, New York.** Two sets of two Interns/Youth Representatives worked with our office since last September. Genevieve Pinnington (Canada) and Greta Hunt (Australia) were with us from October 2018 – April 2019. We thank them for their excellent and professional work with the United Nations and our network. Isobel Cuningham (Ireland) and Uyen Ha (Australia) took over from them in April 2019. Isobel was with us until the end of August. In June, Uyen returned to Thailand, where she lives. They were excellent, responsible, and delightful to work with. We are proud of them and wish them the best for the future. Kathryn Keigher ibvm (U.K.) did an immersion experience for the last five months. Greer Clarke (Australia) did a short immersion experience recently. Janet Palafox (NGO Advisory Committee) will join us for an immersion experience from October to the end of December 2019 and Francesca Torcasio, (Australia) will join us as Youth Representative from October 2019 to April 2020.

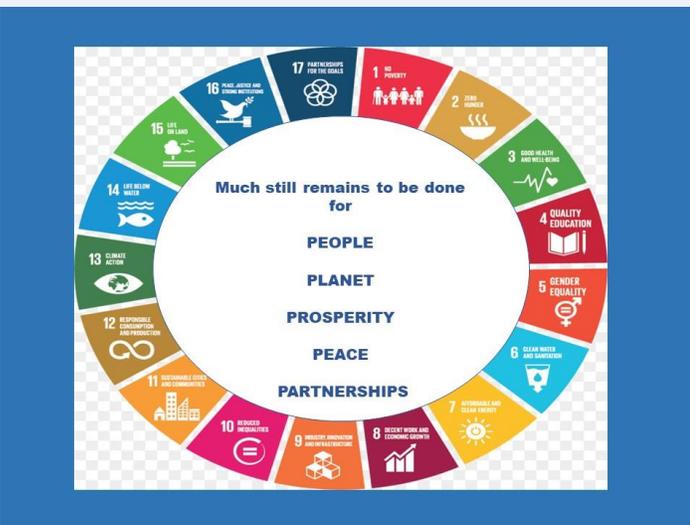
As we recall moments and events since our last UN Update, one specific person comes to mind. We remember with gratitude **Sr. Marian Moriarty**, Institute Leader of IBVM and President of the NGO to the United Nations 2006 – 2014. May she rest in peace.

The United Nations 2019 High- Level Political Forum 8 – 18 July involved a lot of preparation, participation and follow up, including written documents and videos. More recently we participated in the 68th UN Civil Society Conference held in Salt Lake City on 23 – 25 August. Several Briefings were held on various United Nations anniversary processes which will take place during 2020. A number of visits from schools and the work of the world-wide network added to the experience, challenges and enjoyment of our engagement with United Nations processes.



## Review of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The 2019 Review of the Sustainable Development Agenda was held in New York from 9 – 18 July 2019. It is now four years since the 2003 Agenda for Sustainable Development was approved by the United Nations. At this point all 17 SDGs have been reviewed. This year the goals on Education (SDG4), on Decent work for all (SDG8), Inequalities (SDG 10), Climate Action (SDG 13) and Peaceful and Inclusive societies (SDG16) were reviewed. Forty-seven countries presented voluntary reviews on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in their country. Read about the main messages that came through from the review in the [Overview](#) which gives a “bird’s eye” view of the whole 9 days of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF).



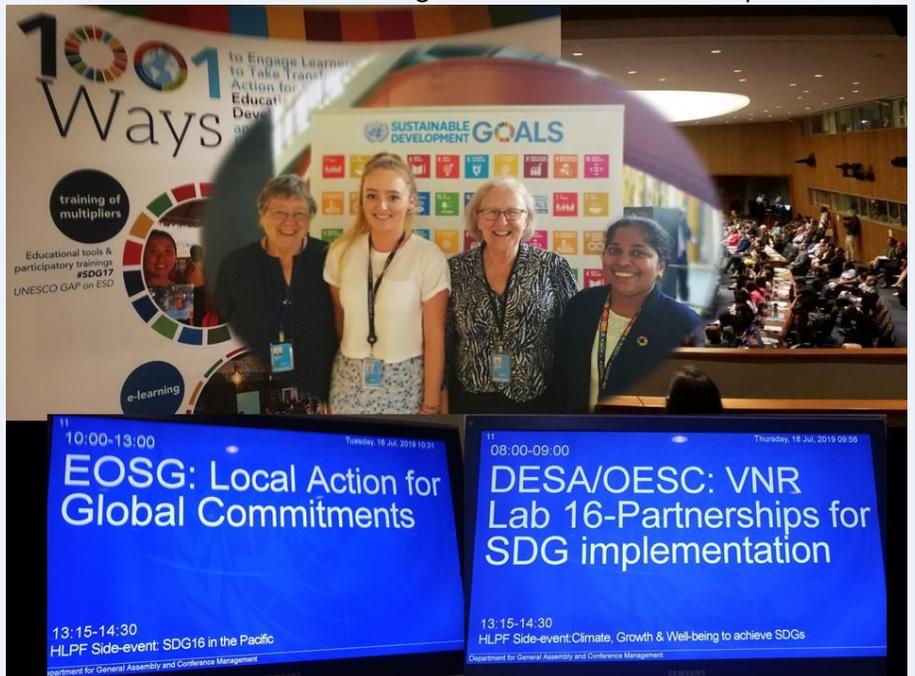
Isobel, Cynthia, Kathryn and Cecilia, who were fully engaged during those days prepared some briefings for members of our network on aspects of that we would like to highlight.

Much of the ministry of the Mary Ward Family worldwide is that of **formal and non- formal education**. Therefore, the **review of SDG4** was significant for us. Read some aspects of conversations on quality education that leaves no one behind. What needs to be done to achieve this aim when education is a human right. Does international cooperation help? What about education in situations of conflict? Read this and more [here](#).

**SDG 10** on reducing inequalities within and across countries is a very serious issue at this point and needs to be understood and addressed. [“Fight Inequalities. It is time to be bold and act”](#). This is the call that accompanies disturbing data and facts facing us and leading to increasing social unrest.

**SDG 16** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Protecting human rights, thinking and being global citizens, access to justice, credible and courageous leaders, gender equality, suppression of criminal activities such as human trafficking: all are essential to achieve peaceful and sustainable development. Delve deeper into the issues [here](#).

Aware that we are working on behalf of the Mary Ward Family worldwide, we prepared our message from these days and share the in the following [video](#).



## Visits from Australia to United Nations and NGO Office



*Gian Ellis - Gannell, Loreto Normanhurst, loves to visit us when she comes to New York. This time she came with two videos she made recently.*

*Watch her rendering of [Life below Water](#) (SDG14), which she prepared especially for us and is part of her contribution to the awareness raising of the SDGs.*

*Secondly, her [video](#) of the Grade 11 Project on Baby Milk to fundraise for babies in Zambia.*

*Gian is in the photo with Isobel, whose role with our NGO at the United Nations is a source of keen interest for many of our visitors.*



*Drama and Visual Arts students from Loreto Normanhurst, Australia, led by Anna-lea Russo, visit the United Nations before commencing an exciting summer course in New York. (Left)*

*Six students, from Loreto Toorak, Melbourne, with Michelle McCarthy, joined us at the Office to share about their experience of the Global Young Leaders Conference, held in Washington and New York in July. (Right)*



*Greer Clarke, Australia, did a short immersion experience at the NGO Office during the summer. See her call for climate strike and join those taking place around the world on 20 September 2019. (Left)*

## From our Network

### **Institute of Healing of Memories – IHOM - Tribute to Sr Jacinta Bannon IBVM**

Creating peaceful, just and sustainable societies requires a whole range of initiatives and practice ranging from governance, access to justice, to community building and personal healing. Personal healing after trauma, situations of conflict and oppression is an essential part of peacebuilding. This is the case of the work of the Institute of Healing of Memories (IHOM), founded by in 1998 by Fr. Michael Lapsley, SSM, who lost both hands and an eye in a letter bomb attack in Zimbabwe 1990. It arose out of Healing of Memories Workshop was first developed to run in parallel to South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (1996-1997), creating additional platforms for those who wished to share their experiences and be heard compassionately. The Institute continues to heal the scars of the past that still shapes the lives, attitudes and choices of South Africans today. Jacinta Bannon IBVM has influenced the lives of many people through her involvement in this healing ministry for over 20 years. Recently Jacinta's work was acknowledged with a special Tribute Day from the IHOM facilitators. In her response to the IHOM's tribute Jacinta shared the following words: "Filled with deep gratitude, humility and awe. The preparations, the honesty and openness of the sharing befits people of our calling as facilitators of IHOM.... Let us continue to bear in mind 'I am because you are' and till we meet again may God continue to hold you in the palm of His hand."



### **"Loreto College Curepipe: For a Greener Future"**



Loreto Curepipe (LCC) Mauritius has embarked on the Zero Waste Campaign with the objective of moving towards a zero-waste school by 2020. LCC administrative block swapped from single use plastic pens and wooden pencils to biodegradable ones. Another initiative aims at reducing plastic pollution by using edible cutlery. They even have a recipe if you wish to make an edible spoon. You will find it in the [Bilan \(Report\)](#). With a special focus on specific SDGs Renewable Energy (SDG7), Responsible consumption (SDG 12) and Climate Action (SDG 13) the school installs solar powered lamps around the compound. Students also engaged in the cleaning and planting of mangroves at a local destination with the reef conservation team. Watch the

video "[Loreto College Curepipe: For a Greener Future](#)"

## The United Nations reaches out beyond New York in USA.

### UN Civil Society Conference 2019.

The 68<sup>th</sup> UN Civil Society Conference on “Building Inclusive and Sustainable Cities and Communities” was held in Salt Lake City. The City authorities worked for months to host the event which led to an amazing welcome and hospitality. The IBVM/CJ delegation included Veronica Ward ibvm associate from Canada in addition to Cynthia, Isobel, Kathryn and Cecilia. We too prepared for months in advance with the Organization of a workshop on How intergenerational Dialogue can contribute to peaceful and just societies. Heartiest congratulations to Isobel, youth representative who organized this workshop.



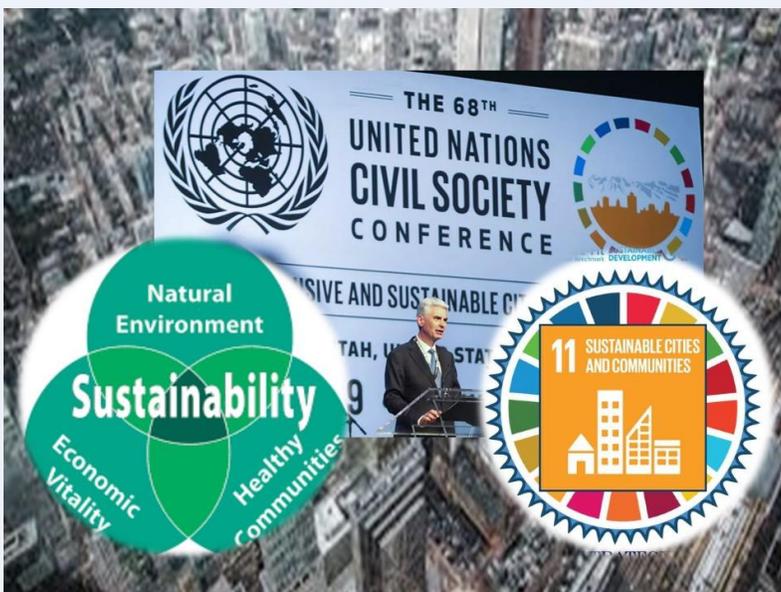
Kathryn, Isobel and Cynthia

Cecilia and Veronica

Cynthia gave input on the situation of the Dalit Community in India at a workshop on Shifting the Balance of Power to Build Sustainable and Inclusive Communities, which we co-sponsored with the Good Shepherd Sisters at the UN. In addition to those of us in the office, members of our network, especially younger members contributed to the outcome statements which were in process for a few months prior to the event and finalized in Salt Lake city. We were happy to discover an exhibit on Nyumbani, the project for Orphans of Aids co-founded by Mary Owens ibvm (Kenya) in the Exhibit Hall and rejoice in the most impressive work undertaken in the project.

### Building a Shared Vision of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities

The Salt Lake Conference is one of a number of steps we have taken to be informed about and address inclusive and sustainable cities and human Settlements. In 2018 some members of the ibvm/CJ network contributed to a reflection on [Sustainable and Inclusive Cities](#) (SDG11) in preparation for the review which was held last year. The UN Habitat Assembly, held in Nairobi from 25 – 31 May 2019, provided another opportunity for a group of five delegates to engage learn and share their experience. The 2019 Civil Society Conference allowed us to develop our work further.



To achieve the shared vision of *SDG 11: Building Inclusive and Sustainable Cities and Communities* by ‘2030 requires dedication, participation and firm commitment by governments and their constituents, partners, leaders and NGO’s.” writes Veronica Ward. “This involves taking ownership to co-create and sustain partnerships to support communities, economies and the well-being of all members of society, regardless of age, gender, race, sexual orientation, religion, socio-economic status and disability. Issues of urbanization and social justice must be addressed”. Continue reading [here](#). And now, find out more from the perspective of [urban planner architects and municipal governance](#).

The [Outcome Statement](#) provides us with valuable information on much of what is involved in making, managing and living in inclusive and sustainable cities. On the other hand, youth gathered decided that what is most important for them is climate action. with [Youth Climate Compact](#).

## WATCH OUT FOR:

The 74th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 74) will open on September 17, 2019. The first day of the high-level General Debate, with Heads of State and Government, will be September 24, 2019.

During the week of the debate, there are several important meetings:

**September 23:** UN Secretary-General has convened a **Climate Summit** [Climate Summit](#) and the General Assembly (UNGA) will hold a one-day high-level meeting on **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)**;

**September 24:** following the opening of the 74th General Debate, there will be a UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), which will take place on the **afternoon of September 24 and all day on September 25.**

September 26: the UNGA will hold a high-level dialogue on **financing for development (FfD)**, as well as a high-level meeting on **the elimination of nuclear weapons.**

These events can be followed **LIVE** or can be seen after the event on the UN WebTV. Go to: <http://webtv.un.org/>

## UN Geneva.

Cynthia will attend the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regular Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva in mid- September. This year, the Human Rights Council Social Forum, which will be held on 1 – 2 October, will focus on *The Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Children and Youth through Education*. We hope to have six delegates at the Forum, Ms. Shiobaun McGee, Ireland, Mrs. Marie Lynch, UK, Janet Palafox, ibvm, Australia, Elena Cerdeiras, Spain, Cynthia and Cecilia. The Forum will be the background for discussions on ways in which we can intensify advocacy on aspects of education for all, especially those who are most vulnerable.

## A BIG THANK YOU

A big Thank You to all who sent in contributions – poetry, videos, written word – for **the Day of The Girl**. Since the celebration of the UN Day of the Girl began in 2012, our girls, encouraged by ever caring teachers and friends have contributed and celebrated this day. You will receive more information at a later date.

**2020.The United Nations 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.** You will be invited to conversations on the global issues facing our world and the role of the United Nations. Read this [Introduction](#) to this significant time. 2020 also commemorates the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to the Beijing Conference on Women. **So, do WATCH OUT and be part of it.**



Learn+assess+pray+act+advocate

Cynthia CJ and Cecilia ibvm  
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