

## The United Nations.

Mr. Antonio Guterres, former Prime Minister of Portugal, officially took up office on 1 January and commenced his duties as United Nations Secretary-General on Tuesday 2 January 2017. He spoke to UN staff about aiding refugees and taking a stand against wealthy nations that shirk global responsibilities. "The only way for us to be able to achieve our goals is to really work together as a team, and to be able to deserve to serve the noble values enshrined in the Charter, that are the values of the UN, that are the values that unite mankind," he said.



Ban Ki-moon, who rang in the New Year on Times Square New York, ended his term as United Nations Secretary-general on Friday 30 December 2016. In his final conversation with UN staff he expressed regret that many conflicts, such as the war in Syria, are still ongoing. He encouraged UN staff to keep working on development goals, climate change and gender empowerment, and said he always aimed to "keep dreaming, to keep believing, and to keep working hard until we achieve progress." His

Report to the General Assembly underlined the complexity of what has been called the "most impossible job in the world". "As I prepare to leave office, he wrote, the United Nations has more political missions and peacekeepers deployed in more —and more dangerous —locations than ever before. It has its largest-ever humanitarian caseload, including more people displaced from their homes, than at any time since the founding of the United Nations. As a result of the adoption of bold new agreements on sustainable development and climate change, it has a more ambitious sustainable development agenda than ever. By adapting to evolving needs and opportunities, the Organization has become more effective and efficient in how it delivers on its mandates.

*Our Province UN Representatives shared their impressions of Ban Ki-moon's Final Report at our last online meeting. Mary Elizabeth Quirke IBVM, Peru, gives a heartfelt appreciation for his work in [this video](#).*

But increased demand ultimately requires increased investment and trust from Member States so that the United Nations can continue to deliver".

Meanwhile, the change of President and Government in USA means a change of Staff at the U.S. Mission. The following "Cabinet Exit Memo for the U.S. Mission to the United Nations by Ambassador Samantha Power, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations," was issued on January 5, 2017. This very interesting document, whether we agree with it or not, gives excellent coverage of the efforts of one country, in this case the greatest contributor to the United Nations. It states "We Have Leveraged the UN to Address Global Crises, Addressing Security Threats, Preventing and Mitigating Conflict", working on "Global Health, Climate, Development, and Refugees. We Have worked to Reform and Improve the UN, Reforming the Way the UN Does Business. We addressed "Anti-Israel Bias", and worked towards "Strengthening Peacekeeping"." We Have Advocated for Our Values at the UN, at the UN Human Rights Council and on behalf of Civil Society, Political Prisoners, LGBT Rights, Women's Rights, Human Trafficking, and Rights of Persons with Disabilities" while Strengthening and Working with the United Nations" Read the complete Memo [here](#).



Irish-American Ambassador Samantha Power

# The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda:

## First year of Implementation.

We are now one year into the implementation of the SDGs. It has been encouraging to see the efforts made to come to know the 17 SDGs, the interconnections between them, how they can advance sustainable development, and how we are part of it all. Among the many recent efforts is the Mary Ward Center Toronto, where, from a justice perspective, Ann McGowan introduces students from a number of Catholic schools to the 2030 Development Agenda in a program aimed at changing heart and mind – Metanoia. Students from Loreto Curepipe, Mauritius, made a video on Education for Sustainable Development where they showcased education sessions, examples of good practice and the values that drive them to create a sustainable world. Watch the video [here](#). Congratulations, girls, teachers and all involved in the effort!



At Mary Ward Center, Toronto

Tell us about Your efforts to raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda!

Tell us how You recognize the SDGs in your everyday life!

Tell Us

Tell us how You are implementing some of the SDGs directly or indirectly

Tell us how the SDGs have changed Your life!

Write. Send and Audio. Send a Video



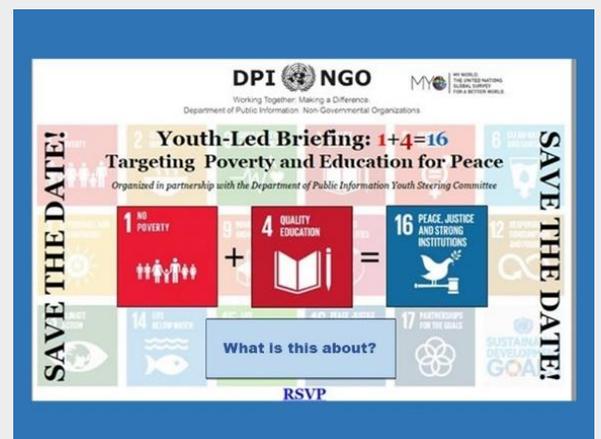
The South Africa JPIC Newsletter of December 2016 South Africa JPIC tells us about SDGs Goal 3, Goal 5 and Goal 16 in Zambia and South

## Youth-Led Briefing Targeting Poverty and Education for Peace.

While all the Sustainable Development Goals are interrelated, it is helpful to select some specific goals or combinations with an objective in view. This was the case with the Youth - Led Briefing entitled 1 + 4 =16.

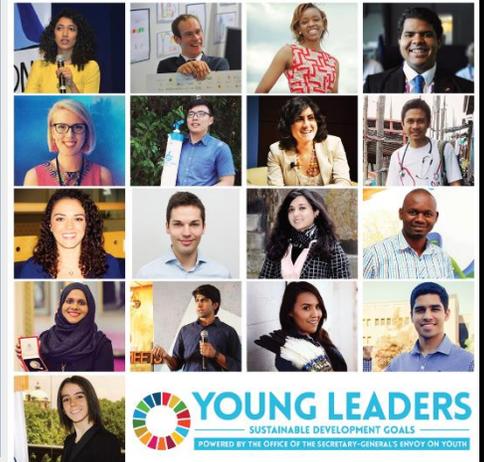
Youth leaders began by noting that the principle of “Leave no one behind” means that we have to reach everybody. It is not enough to be aware of the SDGs, they said, “We have to reach out to others and we need advocates for the SDGs who will go out and advocate”.

While the elimination of poverty is the overall goal of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, one of the key issues related to poverty is education. One speaker gave an example from his own family of three boys and three girls. The boys were



educated. One is now working with the United Nations, another is a professor in a France University and the third is with foreign affairs. The three girls are in their village.

A [Young Leaders](#) initiative was launched in 2015. It is facilitated by the Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth and is part of the Global Youth Partnership for Sustainable Development Goals. The first edition of this initiative was completed in September 2016 when 17 Young Leaders were recognized for their leadership and contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a set of 17 Goals to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030. The next call for nominations, 2017, aims to unearth young people between the ages of 18 -30 from around the world who are leading positive change towards a sustainable future will be held. Watch out for young people you know who fill the requirements and encourage them be part of the initiative!



Emma O’Kane, our Youth Representative, has been following Youth and the United Nations. “UN Women”, she writes, “recently launched CEDAW for Youth – a youth friendly version of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. This document is often described as the international bill of rights for women. CEDAW for Youth was written by and for young people who are a critical resource in the attempts to foster a gender equal world or ‘the last frontier of the civil rights movement’ as referred to by [UN Women Deputy Executive Director Lakshmi Puri](#). Read CEDAW for Youth here - <http://www.unwomen.org/.../publicatio.../2016/12/cedaw-for-youth> - and share with the young people in your life! Thanks to [UN Women For Youth](#) #GenderEquality “

## Follow Up on Human Trafficking at the United Nations

The second review of the United Nations Global Plan of Action on Human Trafficking will be held in October 2017. What is the Global Plan of Action? It is a Plan of Action adopted in 2010 to urge Governments worldwide to take coordinated and consistent measures to try to defeat the scourge of Human Trafficking. It planned to integrate the fight against human trafficking **into** the United Nations' broader programmes to boost development and strengthen security around the world. It also established a United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking, especially women and children. An important point to keep in mind is the fact that the “Palermo Protocol” - Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children - the legally binding instrument on Human Trafficking has not been ratified by all the member states yet. Only 170 out of 193 States have ratified it. The Global Plan of Action is a political document and therefore not legally binding. However, it helps create momentum on the issue. The Review of the Global Plan of Action to Prevent Human Trafficking provides an opportunity for NGOs to join and make our voices heard. In this respect, Mr. Luke de Pulford, U.K., introduced by Imelda Poole [ibvm](#), has given very valuable assistance to our NGO.

Meanwhile, our work on Awareness raising and prevention of Human Trafficking continues. Last Update had the Report from South East Asia. This time we celebrate the work done in Ireland and Peru. Click for [Ireland](#). Click for [Peru](#)

**IBVM Irish Province  
against  
Human Trafficking**



**IBVM Peru**



**Prevention of Human  
Trafficking**

## Upcoming Events at the United Nations

**The Annual Commission for Social Development (CSocD55)** will take place in New York from 1 to 10 February 2017. The priority theme for the 2017-2018 review and policy cycle is “Strategies for the eradication of poverty to achieve sustainable development for all”. Concerns about poverty and inequality are at the heart of the work of this Commission. It works especially for the integration of people in situations of marginalization. The 2017 Session will be preceded by a two-day NGO Forum where civil society groups gather to address the topic. This is a good opportunity to look at ways forward for the NGO Community.

**The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**, the second Commission to be held annually, takes place in March. It is one of the largest annual gatherings of women in the world. The inspiration for the NGO Forum to accompany the Commission began in Beijing in 1995 and has continued to date. Many women work extremely hard to make this gathering a success. In 2016 the First Youth Forum at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) proved that young women and young men are a force to be reckoned with. They are looking forward to a similar engagement at the coming session. The Working Group on Girls holds a special week full of learning and participation for girls. The number of girls attending is also increasing. This year the Commission is held from 13 – 24 March. Please distribute the Flyer accompanying this Update as there may be members of our network who are interested.

**Looking Ahead: The 2017 UN NGO/DPI Conference will be held in New York at the end of August. This has been an important event and opportunity for many of us.**

## Banning Nuclear Weapons.

On 27 October, 2016, the United Nations member states voted overwhelmingly to start negotiations on a treaty to ban nuclear weapons, despite strong opposition from nuclear-armed nations and their allies. The landmark resolution to launch negotiations in 2017 is a historic decision which heralds an end to two decades of paralysis in multilateral nuclear disarmament efforts. Eight nations with nuclear arms opposed or abstained from the resolution, while North Korea voted yes. The resolution will set up a UN conference beginning in March 2017, open to all member states, to negotiate a “legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”. The negotiations will continue in June and July. The International Campaign to abolish Nuclear weapons (ICAN), is calling on governments to work towards concluding the treaty by 7 July.

What began as sincere concerns about the horrendous humanitarian consequences of using nuclear weapons has now become a diplomatic process driving towards a new global accord. It is fueled less by ideology than by fear. The movement reflects widespread fears that the world is moving closer to a nuclear catastrophe — and that the nuclear-armed powers are not serious about reducing these risks or their arsenals. The Treaty will not eliminate nuclear weapons overnight but it will establish a new international legal standard stigmatizing nuclear weapons and compelling nations to take urgent action on disarmament.

**Learn+assess+pray+act+advocate**

**Cecilia O’Dwyer ibvm**

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