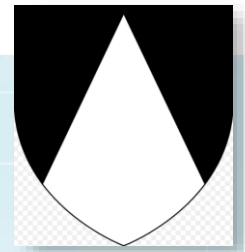


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Dominicans at the UN

Dominican Leadership Conference

"Cry out as if you had a million voices, for it is silence that kills the world" St. Catherine of Siena

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Welcome to the Spring 2018 issue of the Dominican Leadership Conference Newsletter!

In this issue you can read about the work the DLC has been doing this year including hosting our international sisters for the 62nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, hosting a group from Mexico for the 17th Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and updates on the Global Compact for Migration.



DSI at the UN

Dominican Sisters International (DSI) joined together with the Dominican Leadership Conference (DLC) to participate in the 62nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), which was held from March 13-27 in New York. The Commission is largest forum for the UN and is an essential instrument that brings together UN Member States, international actors, and civil society organizations, on behalf of building consensus and policies around the treatment of women and girls everywhere. The theme of this year's Commission was "challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls." The reason this theme is so significant is due to the fact that rural women and girls are the most vulnerable in today's society in terms of social, economic, and political rights.

This year, DLC hosted ten Dominican Sisters and one Associate representing the five continental areas of DSI. Their ministry backgrounds included social work, education, interfaith justice, women and girl empowerment, and peace training. These women brought immense knowledge and understanding to the Commission as they have had years of experience on the ground working for grassroots change in their communities.

At the end of the Commission, Member States adopted the Agreed Conclusions that put forth concrete measures that ensure the rights of rural women and girls. Some of these measures included food security and nutrition, access to education and health resources, investing in infrastructure and technology, and the eradication of violence against women and girls as well as harmful practices such as female genital mutilation.

Our experience of Dominican sisterhood during this event inspired each of us to continue in the work we do with a newfound love and appreciation for the mission and one another.



Girls in the CSW

The DLC is a member of the Working Group on Girls (WGG), an NGO that focuses on ensuring girls have a place at the table when it comes to policy. Often, rhetoric at the UN focuses on the empowerment and the advancement of women, with hardly any mention of girls. However, many of social and economic issues arise during girlhood, and this working group makes sure that member states address these issues. This year the WGG hosted girls from all over the United States to participate at this year's CSW. These girls attended the sessions and the events to make sure their voices and their experiences were heard and acknowledged. It was one of the most uplifting moments during CSW as we saw a new generation of leaders pave the way for great changes to come in the future. If you are interested in reading about the Working Group on Girls' statement to the Commission in the Status of Women 2018 click [here](#).

This year's attendees CSW62 2018



Jareen Aquino, MM -Tanzania
Maryknoll Sister of St. Dominic



Cecilia Espenilla, OP Philippines
DSI Coordinator for Justice and
Peace



Patricia Madigan, OP -Eastern
Australia, Dominican Sisters of
Eastern Australia and Solomon
Islands



Roberta Miller, OP- USA
Dominican Sisters of Peace



Else-Britt Nilsen, OP- Norway
Dominicaines de Norte-Dame de
Grâce



Mary Ryan, OP -Western Australia
Dominican Sisters Eastern Australia
and Solomon Islands



Juana Sanabria, OP - Paraguay
Dominican Sisters of Monteil



Rosa Maria Sanchez -
California/Mexico
Dominican Laity



Tabiria Tabeaua, OP - Solomon
Islands, Dominican Sisters Eastern
Australia and Solomon Islands



Christin Tomy, OP- USA
Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa



Mary Tuck, OP - South Africa
King Williamstown

17th Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)

One of last year's attendees at the Commission on the Status of Women was our Dominican Sister from Mission San Jose, Helena Im, who works with indigenous women in Chiapas, Mexico. Thanks to this connection with Helena we were able to host four guests from Chiapas for the 17th Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The Forum is a high-level advisory body to the Economic and Social Council. The theme of this year's Forum was "Indigenous peoples' collective rights to lands, territories and resources".



From left to right: **Atilano (Tilo) A. Ceballos Loeza**: A Mayan priest in Yucatan, he is a defender of cultural identity and promoter of responsible agriculture practices that have their foundations in the Mayan worldview. Tilo is the director of the school of ecological agriculture, U Yits Ka'an, in Yucatán.

Margarita Rustrián Martínez: an interpreter for the Dominican family in Mission San Jose, California and Mexico. She has a strong passion for social justice and for Indigenous People's rights.

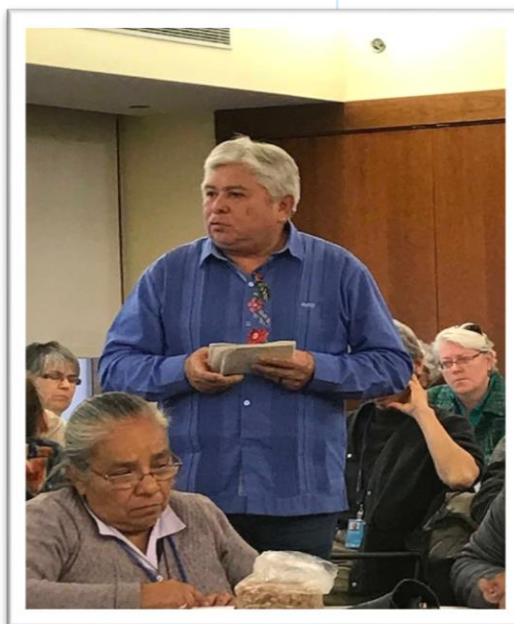
Rosa Lopez Valentin: A graduate student completing her masters in Natural Resources and Rural Development at El Colegio de la Frontera Sur, in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas. When she's not taking classes, she teaches history to young Mayans who have struggled to learn despite various obstacles to their education.

Francisca (Paqui) Quintero Osorio: A Dominican sister of Mission San Jose doing Pastoral ministry in Chiapas. She has worked more than seven years providing health services to the Mayan people of San Andres.



The NGO Mining Working Group hosted our guests from Chiapas along with other visitors from the Indigenous Missionary Council (CIMI), and the Red Eclesial PanAmazonica (REPAM), an organization that connects Latin American and Caribbean federations of Religious, Latin American Bishops' Conferences, along with other organizations and missionaries to protect the environment and the most vulnerable communities of the Amazon. A discussion among the attendees centered on how the Mining Working Group might better assist and support our networks on the ground in their struggle to defend both human rights and the rights of Earth.

Atilano (Tilo) A. Ceballos Loeza, spoke at the event “Spiritual Connection and Right stewardship of Land, Territory and Resources, Including Water for Indigenous Peoples”. He explained the deep relationship the indigenous of Yucatan have to the land. Tilo focused on the harsh realities indigenous people face regarding human rights violations and land exploitation and the lack of media coverage of these issues. It was a powerful presentation that made us aware of the systemic oppression and state violence against the native peoples in Mexico.



Migration Updates

As you may remember, in September 2016 then Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon convened the first ever UN Summit on Refugees and Migrants. The outcome of this Summit, the **New York Declaration**, called for the adoption of a **Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**; and, a **Global Compact for Refugees**. Among the provisions of these Compacts are the protection of the rights of refugees and migrants – regardless of legal status; greater assistance with resettlement; and greater efforts at countering the troubling trends of xenophobia, racism and discrimination which are directed towards refugees and migrants worldwide. The movement towards these two Compacts is significant in that it recognizes the refugee and migration crisis as global in scope, and therefore, in need of a cooperative, global solution.

However, in December of last year, President Trump withdrew the United States from further negotiations on the compacts. Our UN Ambassador, Nikki Haley, said at the time that the New York Declaration's approach was not compatible with US sovereignty, and that the US would define its own migration plan. Nonetheless, the rest of the world is moving ahead, and the hope is that in December both Compacts will be adopted by the General Assembly.

We are now entering the fourth round of negotiations, and the NGO Committee on Migration will be busy advocating for its *Ten Acts for the Global Compact: A civil society vision for a transformative agenda for human mobility, migration and development.*

Here's a thought: Even though the US is no longer participating in the negotiations, why not send a copy of the *Ten Acts* to your Congress People, reminding them that regardless of what the US may do on its own, there is really no way we can separate ourselves out from the larger global scene. We live in a world in which what one of us does, affects all of us – for good or ill. It is the recognition of this truth that will help to make America great again.

Visit the Refugee and Migrants UN [website](#) to track important intergovernmental negotiations throughout the year and visit the NGO Committee on Migration [website](#) for access to educational resources on these issues.

Summer 2018 Events of Interest at the United Nations



The High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development will be held from **Monday, 9 July, to Wednesday, 18 July 2018**. This year's theme will be "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies". The set of goals to be reviewed are: [Goal 6](#). Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, [Goal 7](#). Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, [Goal 11](#). Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, [Goal 12](#). Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns, [Goal 15](#). Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss, [Goal 17](#). Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development,

Follow the forum and any updates through their [website](#)



To follow up with the implementation of the voluntary commitments made by member states, businesses and other international actors at the Ocean Conference held in June 2017, the UN launched nine thematic multi-stakeholder Communities of Ocean Action. Each community is coordinated by designated focal points that work together with UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean, Ambassador Peter Thomson, and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs in carrying out the activities.

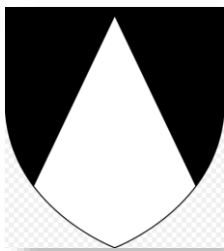
Click [here](#) to learn about the Communities of Ocean Action, to keep track on current commitments of action, and to learn more about SDG14.

Other important dates

- May 29—International Day for UN Peacekeepers
- May 31—World No-Tobacco Day
- June 1—Global Day of Parents
- June 4—International Day for Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
- June 5—World Environment Day
- June 8—World Oceans Day^{[1][SEP]}
- June 12—World Day Against Child Labour
- June 15— Elder Abuse Awareness Day
- June 16—World Day of Family Remittances
- June 17—World Desertification and Drought
- June 19—International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict^{[1][SEP]}
- June 20—World Refugee Day
- June 26—International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
- June 26—International Day in Support of Victims of Torture
- **June 27-30—Dominican North American Justice Promoters meeting in Chicago, IL**

We hope you found our Newsletter informative and engaging. If you want to learn more about the work the DLC does please visit our website:

<http://www.dominicanleadershipconference.org> or follow us on social media: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)



Dominican Leadership Conference

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