

# News from UNANIMA International

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## Executive Directors Reflection

My Dear Friends of UNANIMA  
International,

Greetings from the team in various parts of the world, Tasmania, Australia; New York City; Upstate New York; and Dublin, Ireland. Working apart from each other has been a

challenge, but a creative time for all of us as well. All of us have had to adjust to a New Normal with life in lockdown, which has brought many changes to our daily lives. The Coronavirus has cast a shadow over our lives, but we must turn our faces to the sun, and have a deep sense of hope. Remember that in these times Compassion, Faith, Hope, and Love are crucial as we adjust to “the New Normal”. We in UNANIMA International want to reassure you of our continued prayers and support for our worldwide community.

We have received many stories from our grassroots members amid the coronavirus pandemic. Stories of sheltering in place, losses, income, housing, homelessness, caring for abandoned children, preparing, and delivering food so that children have something to eat, caring for children with special needs, and much more. All the stories are woven together in a collective state of discomfort. But I do feel a great sense of hope because the pandemic has taught us that when emotional suffering is accepted as universal, and the private becomes a collective, we can harness the power to heal.

We in UNANIMA International want to recognize and pay tribute to our members and the many sacrifices they made these past six months during the pandemic – our members in 85 countries and with 23,000 members, we honor you and your commitment.

Jean

# Why isn't this a Normal Newsletter?

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the decreased activity of the United Nations during this time, this month's newsletter will not feature the usual grassroots, UN and regional stories. Instead we encourage you to visit our website and social medias where grassroots and regional blogs are shared on a regular basis.

If you or your community have a story you would like to share please contact your UNANIMA International Director or contact us via the website! Don't worry we'll be back to normal next time!

## Research Update

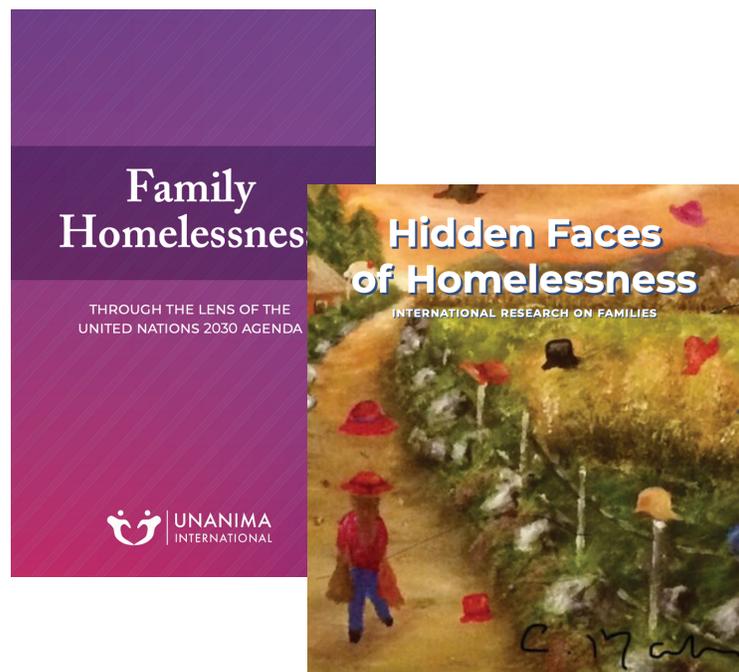
As we have found since our research's launch in 2018, Family Homelessness, Displacement and Trauma prove to be a pervasive, international issue related to nearly all multilateral issues and focuses of the United Nations (UN). This is seen through the UN's 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Secretary General's selection of the climate as a priority theme, and the upcoming 59th Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD59) which is titled: 'the role of digital technologies on social development and well-being of all.' It remains an issue that must be discussed and addressed globally.

After the initial success of our research and advocacy, UNANIMA International's niche in the UN Space as an international expert on the topic of Family Homelessness continues to be reaffirmed, most recently with our participation in the UN's 3rd Committee General Assembly Resolution on Homelessness. With a vast range of resources and publications collated and released since its initiation, our research remains accessible to grassroots members, member states, and other interested parties. While new testimonies have been primarily derived from online interviews and research (due to the COVID-19

pandemic), a mixture of research and advocacy methodologies continue to be engaged by us and our partners, ensuring an ongoing holistic approach to everything we do.

We are excited to announce UNANIMA International will be releasing three more significant publications in the coming months titled "Hidden Faces of Homelessness, International Research on Families Volume II", "Family Homelessness, Through the Lens of the 2030 Agenda Volume II" and "Intersections of Family Homelessness and Human Trafficking". Each highlighting lived experiences, the input of academic experts, and quantitative and qualitative data, they explore their respective topics in a holistic and comprehensive manner.

With two current research interns (from USA and Spain), and two volunteers (based in Mexico and India) we continue to contribute greatly to Advocacy for Women and Children/Girls experiencing Homelessness through a vast range of facets in the UN and global space. For a complete list of our publications you can visit our website or contact us directly on [info@unanima-international.org](mailto:info@unanima-international.org).



# High Level Political Forum

The United Nations hosted the 2020 High Level Political Forum (HLPF) from Tuesday July 7th, to Thursday July 16th. With the theme of “Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development,” the 2020 HLPF gave the global community a place to reflect on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), their progress, and their downfalls, specifically in the context of current world affairs. Taking place under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, the forum included an array of High Level Events, Voluntary National Review Labs, Side Events, SDGs Learning, Training and Practices workshops, as well as the three-day ministerial meeting of the forum from July 14th-16th .

Held annually, the HLPF is the core United Nations platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, inclusive of the 17 SDGs. In 2020 a new approach was taken where all of the 17 Goals were reviewed in the context of the theme rather than having a focus on specific ones. With a particular focus on the status of the SDGs in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, its participants took part in a global forum which allowed room for debate on where we stand on the SDGs. Such discussions engaged all, allowing for the voices and reflections of the international community to be heard, and gave space for ideas on how the international community can respond to the pandemic in a way that puts us back on track to achieve the SDGs.

While discussions affirmed that progress has been made in the first five years of the 2030 Agenda, it remains uneven and has been stalled or reversed by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the SDG 2020 Report: “The poorest and the most vulnerable, including women, children, girls, older persons, persons with disabilities, migrants and refugees, and informal sector workers are affected disproportionately by the pandemic.”

Throughout the forum there was a distinct call for the global community to respond with greater urgency, especially to world hunger which has increased, with 270 million people currently experiencing extreme food insecurity. To end global poverty, there needs to be an increase in Social Protection Systems, which is crucial for vulnerable groups. This is especially true in the wake of the pandemic, given that 55% of the world’s population do not benefit from any form of social protection, which is pushing 70-100 million people into extreme poverty .



# High Level Political Forum Continued..

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic all of the High-Level meetings and side events were held virtually. While only registered or official, designated delegates were able to attend some meetings, a significant number of events were held online and aired on UN TV. It was estimated that over 70,000 viewers globally followed the various meetings online with the opening session alone having over 12,000 observers. If you would like to watch some of the content you can visit UNTV.

Throughout the Forum, 47 countries carried out voluntary national reviews (VNRs) of their implementation of the 2030 Agenda, giving an overview of their progress and the challenges they face. The official presentations and reports can all be found on the HLPF website, some of which we are happy to report include sections on housing and addressing homelessness. Over 240 side events also took place virtually, shedding light and giving thought to a myriad of aspects and cross-cutting issues such as homelessness, and their implementation of solutions on a national, regional and local level. UNANIMA International was fortunate to attend a number of these events, giving voice to the people we advocate for any chance we could!

Further information on the High Level Political Forum, including links to the Voluntary National Reviews, can be found by visiting the official website.



# UN75 & UNANIMA International



## Upcoming Dates

International Day of Older Persons	October 1st
International Day of Non-Violence	October 2nd
World Teachers Day	October 5th
UNANIMA International Symposium	October 9th
World Mental Health Day	October 10th
World Homeless Day	October 10th
International Day of the Girl Child	October 11th
International Day of Rural Women	October 15th
World Food Day	October 16th
International Day of the Eradication of Poverty	October 17th
United Nations Day	October 24th

# Civil Society Engagement Study

Recently, Molly Ruhlman, a Lecturer from Towson University and author of studies about the history of civil society engagement with the United Nations system contacted UNANIMA International. She is working on a study of the civil society organizations that have been the most engaged in the dialogues and meetings related to Sustainable Development, based on decades of meeting records. Through her research thus far she identified UNANIMA International as one of the most engaged in all UN dialogues, including those related to Sustainable Development. She has requested an opportunity to speak (via Zoom) with the team on our UN engagement, which will contribute to her research.



## UNANIMA International Symposium on Women and Children Experiencing Homelessness

In recognition of World Homelessness Day and in preparation for the 59th Session of the Commission for Social Development and ongoing advocacy, UNANIMA International is holding our annual "Symposium on Women and Children/Girls Experiencing Homelessness/Displacement." Paying special attention to the UN's 2020 Anniversaries and the upcoming Commission's theme: "Socially just transition towards sustainable development: the role of digital technologies on social development and well-being for all", the symposium will be held on October 9th, 2020, from 10am to 12pm, and facilitated via Zoom! We would like to take this opportunity to invite you to join the the symposium and have your input into this global issue! If you would like to attend the Symposium please register via this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEsf-urqT0jGtGpjV2x25I8Wv9gorXGobZm>