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Executive Director's Reflection

Dear Friends,

This past year has been a challenging year for all of us. The world has been turned upside down with the pandemic, wars, homelessness, displacement, hunger and

starvation continuing at a phenomenal rate. And so, our vision as an organization is as relevant now as it was almost 20 years ago – a future where women, children and girls who live in extreme poverty in our society will be empowered to achieve a better quality of life.

We stayed true to that vision all throughout 2021. Reflecting back on last year's work, and looking forward to the path ahead, I am reminded of the precious collaboration, hard work, and determination of the UNANIMA International team. In early 2021, we participated in many UN side or parallel events. For the 59th session of the Commission for Social Development, UNANIMA International hosted an event titled "*Youth Perspectives on Family Homelessness and Technology*," which featured students and those with lived experience in response to the Commission's priority theme. For the 65th session of the Commission for the Status of Women, UNANIMA International hosted the event "*Hidden Homelessness: From Trauma to Empowerment*," which brought attention to the less visible forms of homelessness. UNANIMA International also welcomed interns from Syracuse University and have since formed a great partnership with the university and its students.

In May, UNANIMA International launched our latest publication, *"The Intersections of Family Homelessness and Human Trafficking."* This research project allowed us, as an organization with roots in anti-trafficking advocacy, to meaningfully examine the links between trafficking and homelessness across the globe. UNANIMA International also maintained active participation in various civil society working groups and committees doing exceptional work at the United Nations. It is a joy to be able to collaborate with such talented and passionate people on issues like homelessness, migration, and social development.

It is an honor to be able to see all the places our vision and advocacy reaches. I was fortunate to give multiple presentations on behalf of UNANIMA International last year, including for the UISG, Sophia Housing, and for the Ransboro School in Ireland. Furthermore, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs invited UNANIMA International to contribute to an Expert Group Meeting over the summer. I represented UNANIMA International on the subjects of Poverty, Homelessness, Food Insecurity, Inequalities and most especially, the lived experience of those left furthest behind. I am so appreciative of the relationships and connections that have been forged from these and other opportunities that have been afforded to us.

Of all that was accomplished in 2021, I was especially proud of the recent United Nations Resolution on Homelessness that was passed in December. The resolution was a monumental achievement for UNANIMA International, Executive Members from the Working Group to End Homelessness, the Member States we worked tirelessly with, and - most importantly - for all those experiencing homelessness. The topic of homelessness was largely missing from the international community's agenda for decades, but thanks to the efforts of practitioners, members of the grassroots working directly with homeless people, civil society organizations, and our partners at the United Nations, we managed to have the resolution adopted by all 193 Member States in the UN General Assembly.

Upcoming Dates

February 7 to 16 - 60th Commission for Social Development (CSocD60)

February 20 - World Day of Social Justice

March 1 - Zero Discrimination Day

March 8 - International Women's Day

March 14 to 15 - 66th Session of the Commission for the Status of Women (CSW66)

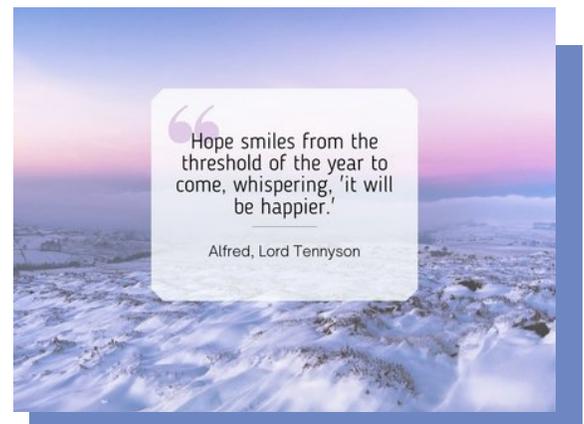
March 21 - International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

March 22 - World Water Day

April 7 - United Nations' World Health Day

I am filled with gratitude to our civil society partners, the UNANIMA International Board, and our New York team. And, as we make our way through the beginning of 2022, we are called to "threshold times" in UNANIMA International. We continue to stand on the edge of change with courage, listening to what is calling us now, and anticipating our next steps. There is much work to be done but reflecting on what our organization has achieved in such a short period leaves me hopeful and energized.

Sincerely,
Jean



What's Happening At the UN?



The Commission for Social Development (CSocD60)

The 60th Commission for Social Development (CSocD60) is taking place from February 7th to February 16th this year. The Commission is the United Nations' key body in charge of issues focusing on social development and protections. The 2022 priority theme is "Inclusive and resilient recovery from COVID-19 for sustainable livelihoods, well-being and dignity for all: eradicating poverty and hunger in all its forms and dimensions to achieve the 2030 Agenda."



UNANIMA International has contributed to the Commission by submitting a written joint statement in collaboration with the International Presentation Association (IPA). In the joint statement, IPA and UNANIMA International focused on the specific vulnerabilities of women and girls throughout the pandemic. Some of these vulnerabilities include a greater risk of experiencing domestic violence, poverty, homelessness, and other traumatic experiences.

In addition to providing policy recommendations that were informed by the social sciences, UNANIMA



International and IPA drew attention to the need for Trauma-Informed Care and housing with supports. UNANIMA International also submitted an oral statement to the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) which draws from the content of the written statement. The statement was accepted by UN DESA and will be read virtually either live (time permitting) during the Commission or via a prerecorded video.

Beyond attending CSocD60 side events, UNANIMA International, via the Working Group to End Homelessness, is participating in an event titled "End Homelessness, Hunger, and Poverty to Achieve Inclusive Recovery and Dignity for All Through the SDGs" on February 15th, at 11:30am EST. UNANIMA International's Executive Director, Jean Quinn, will be a featured speaker at this event. For more details, please refer to the event's flyer below:



Registration link:
bit.ly/3nXotIf

www.wgehomelessness.org | www.un.org

Interested in learning more about our participation in the Commission this year? Follow our social media and blog for updates on all things UNANIMA International during CSocD60!

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66) and the NGO CSW Virtual Exhibit Booth



The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The CSW is instrumental in promoting women’s rights, documenting the reality of women’s lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women. This year’s priority theme is "Achieving gender equality and the

empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes." In response to the priority theme, UNANIMA International submitted a request to deliver an oral statement for the Commission. If accepted and time permitting, the statement will be read virtually.

For CSW66, UNANIMA International is participating in a parallel event with the Working Group to End Homelessness titled "Climate Change: Multiple Risks for Homeless Women and Girls." UNANIMA International’s Executive Director, Jean Quinn, will be moderating the event. For more information about this CSW66 parallel event, please refer to the flyer.

UNANIMA International is also pleased to share that we will be featured on NGO CSW’s website in the form of a virtual "exhibit booth." At the virtual booth, registered participants can learn all about UNANIMA International, our research, what we have been working on with different civil society partners, and gain access to CSW66 events that we are affiliated with. More information is forthcoming! To learn more about how to register for NGO CSW, please visit the link in our newsletter’s Resources section.

14-25 MARCH 2022 CSW66 COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

CSW66 PARALLEL EVENT

Climate Change: MULTIPLE RISKS FOR HOMELESS WOMEN AND GIRLS

MARCH 21, 2022

2pm EST

REGISTER HERE

Climate change may be the most important global human rights crisis of our time. Homeless people, who are already among the most vulnerable in societies, are disproportionately impacted as they have fewer resources. Climate change impacts homeless women and girls even more profoundly as entrenched gender inequalities increase their risk for poor health, domestic violence, trafficking and child marriage. Our panel will propose policies and programs to strengthen the resilience and support homeless women and girls during climate crises.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Lived Experience of Homelessness and natural disasters
- Climate Change and unsheltered/inadequately housed Women and Girls
- Greater health risks, trauma, hunger, risks of violence
- Displacement and Migration: risks and disadvantages
- Gender Sensitive Policies and Programs to alleviate displacement and homelessness

Moderator: Jean Quinn, Executive Director of UNANIMA International and Co-Chair of the Working Group to End Homelessness

NGO WORKING GROUP TO END HOMELESSNESS

THE GLOBAL GOALS

NGO Committee Updates

Committee on Migration

The NGO Committee on Migration has met regularly in January and February.

UNANIMA International is an active member of the Subcommittee for Children in Migration and has helped prepare for an upcoming CSocD60 side event. This event, titled *"Hope Starts in the Cities: Building a Brighter Future for Migrant Children & Families Day by Day During the Pandemic,"* features speakers from UNICEF, Brazil, and Uganda. The aim of the side event is to highlight some of the local best early childhood development practices for migrant children that Mayors and practitioners are implementing in cities like Boa Vista and Kampala. In addition to the side event, UNANIMA International is involved in the planning for visits to different UN Permanent Missions in the upcoming months. The Migration Committee has formed a comprehensive framework to engage UN Member States leading up to the International Migration Review Forum in May.

Working Group on Girls

Our Executive Assistant, Lara Hicks, is an active member of the Working Group on Girls



(WGG). Currently, the working group is focusing on three different projects in preparation for the 66th Commission on the Status of Women. The first is "Girls' Caucus," which is an annual discussion hosted by WGG to engage girls on the topics of CSW66. The second project is "Girls' Statement Writing," a WGG initiative that helps girls come together and write a statement that will be read by a girl at the UN for CSW66. The last



project is a conversation circle in partnership with NGO CSW – an NGO group that focuses on all things CSW for civil society organizations. Lara is proud to be a part of the Girls' Statement Writing subgroup. On February 5th, she attended the first session of the Girls' Statement Writing meetings and had the opportunity to watch girls collaborate, brainstorm, and begin writing their CSW66 statement.

The Working Group to End Homelessness



NGO WORKING GROUP TO END HOMELESSNESS

The Working Group to End Homelessness (WGEH) was established in 2017; UNANIMA International's Executive Director Jean Quinn, DW helped found the group and is a member of the group's Executive Committee. WGEH's vision is a future in which every person has the dignity of having a safe, habitable, affordable, secure home. The working group's mission is to advocate at the UN for persons who are vulnerable, with the goal to end homelessness for all. A recent accomplishment of the group was the UN General Assembly's adoption of a resolution on homelessness in 2021: ***"Inclusive policies and programmes to address homelessness, including in the aftermath of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)."*** WGEH believes that this resolution will bring the global problem of homelessness to the forefront of Member States' efforts to alleviate poverty and to build forward protecting human rights and leaving no one behind.

WGEH's New Strategy for 2022-2024 has been

developed on the foundation of previous experience, learning, and research. It will address and include:

- Multiple and Intersecting Vulnerabilities Associated with Homelessness
- Champion the UN's clearly defined description of homelessness from the 2020 and 2021 Resolutions
- A Global Homeless Data Initiative to advocate for local and national governments and NGOs to collect better homeless data that aligns with the UN description
- Ensuring that the challenges faced by people who are homelessness are addressed



UNANIMA International Intern Introductions



Emily Rose Schabert

Emily is a current Master's student in International Relations at Syracuse University, focusing on International Development and Humanitarian Assistance. She is also working toward a Certificate of Advanced Study in Post-Conflict Reconstruction. Emily is originally from Saint Paul, Minnesota, and graduated from the University of Minnesota Duluth in May of 2021 with a BS in Chemical & Environmental Engineering and a BA in International Studies. Her work with Engineers Without Borders convinced her that a career in sustainable international development was the best way to put her engineering degree to use. She is thrilled to be working with UNANIMA International on issues of women's poverty and homelessness, and all of the intersectional issues women around the world face.



Shiyue (Teresa) Zhang

Teresa is passionate about helping people in need. An undergraduate student from Syracuse University, she received her bachelor's degree double majoring in International Relations and Psychology in December 2021. Teresa was born and raised in China and went to high school in Michigan. She believes that her experiences in China and the U.S. have given her a unique combination of Eastern and Western perspectives. She has traveled extensively, and as a result, Teresa loves to consider the global needs and challenges that face the international community. Teresa is honored to spend her spring 2022 with UNANIMA International as an intern while continuing to chase her dream of a graduate degree in psychology.

UNANIMA International New Office

The UN Church Center



UNANIMA International has a new office! In late January, UNANIMA International moved into the United Nations Church Center located directly across from the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. The UI Team all pitched in to help make this move a reality.

The UN Church Center is an interfaith space that many NGOs call home. The building was

dedicated in September 1963. Then UN Secretary General, U Thant, along with U.S. Ambassador to the UN, Adlai Stevenson, and U.S. Secretary of State, Dean Rusk, were present at the building's dedication ceremony. The center has a rich history of collaboration, advocacy, and United Nations engagement. We are so thrilled to be closer to the UN and to some of our dear NGO/Civil Society colleagues. Our new address and office phone number are listed below:



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Women & Children



Homelessness/Displacement



Migrants & Refugees



Climate

Grassroots Stories:

Marist Children and Youth Center - SM



Within the framework of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the Marist Children and Youth Center of Villas de Guadalupe in Zapopan (a school that works with children who are educationally lagging and at risk of living a street experience; school of

the Marist Brothers), Jalisco carried out several activities so as not to forget this important day. In 2000, the UN declared November 25 as the International Day of Non-Violence Against Women. Since, according to figures from the same organization, it is estimated that one in three women suffers violence, a figure that rose during the SARS-COVID pandemic. A sensitization and awareness exercise on gender-based violence was carried out and ended with a "march of silence" where school students wore black face masks and banners with signs on the subject. This was a sign of protest against violence that is perpetrated against millions of women throughout the world. The march was carried out around the streets of the school center and later the banners were pasted on the walls of the school. At the time we were marching, two women were found dead in bags and cruelly tortured very close to the school.

Within the framework of the protests, on November 24, 2021, a workshop on the prevention of child sexual abuse was held commemorating the fact that November 19 was the National Day Against Child Sexual Abuse. The girls knew their rights and received information to take care of themselves and report abuse.

At the Marist Children and Youth Center we are committed to the education and protection of the rights of our children. We are against all types of violence, especially gender violence. We work so that all make use of their right to participation, denounce situations of abuse, and become empowered. We know that we live



We know that we live in a culture where women and girls are at a social disadvantage. There are prejudices, discrimination, and limitations such as lack of education, lower wages for women, limited employment and less access to higher education, as evidenced by data from the UN. All of the above have been



established in patriarchal structures where there is an imbalance in the experience of human rights.

It is increasingly important that women and girls are listened to, educated and trained to raise their voice. It is important to recognize the signs of violence and abuse that exist in families and learn to stop within a framework of respect and equality. It is also important that local authorities and laws establish frameworks of legality and equal treatment, as well as generate public policies that respond to these needs.

-Sister Noelene Simmons, SM



Blanket Run - CND



Once again, Sr. Pat McCarthy, CND, and the generous children at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School in Waterbury, CT ran a very successful "blanket run!" Click the link below to view a short video clip about the blanket run:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vf10mgRSK38&ab_channel=FrancescaCorona

-Sister Patricia Flattery, CND

Resources

[The UN Secretary-General's "Our Common Agenda" Report](#)

[The 60th Session of the Commission for Social Development](#)

[The 66th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women](#)

[Faith-Sensitive Mental Health and Psychosocial Support \(MHPSS\) to Foster Resilience in Children on the Move](#)

[NGO CSW Website - sign up to see UNANIMA International's Exhibit Booth!](#)

[The UN Secretary-General's 2nd Report on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#)

[Our Publications: Click on the images!](#)

