



**UNANIMA**  
**INTERNATIONAL**  
ONE SPIRIT, ONE MISSION, ONE HOPE

# Executive Director's Report

## March 2024



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# March 2024 Report



## UN Involvement

### NGO Committee for Social Development

The NGO Committee for Social Development was founded in 1998, soon after the UN World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen (March 1995). At that Summit, governments reached a new consensus on the need to put people at the center of development and pledged to make the conquest of poverty, the achievement of full employment, and the fostering of social integration the overriding objectives of development.

Civil Society organizations working at the UN founded the NGO Committee on Social Development to work toward the achievement of the World Summit for Social Development goals and to continue reviewing UN progress toward those goals notably by actively following and preparing the UN Commission on Social Development. Committee members are currently

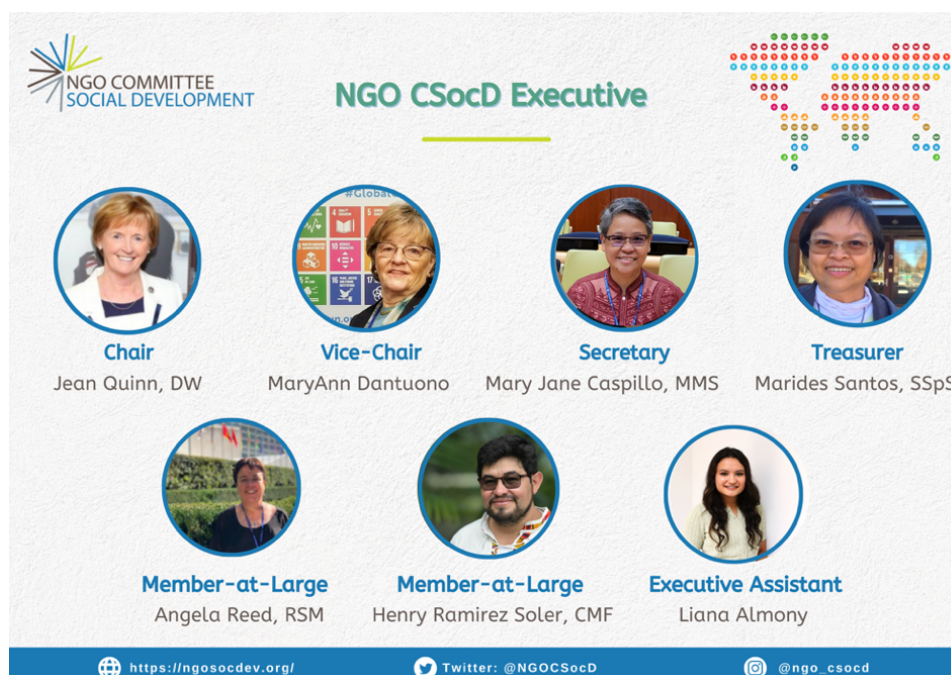
active in the articulation and promotion of SDGs and Agenda 2030, helping align our advocacy work on social development with the activities of the UN High Level Political Forum.

Additionally, the NGO Committee works with other entities such as the UN Commission on the Status of Women, UN DESA (UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs), and other specialized bodies and agencies. It also monitors the work of the UN General Assembly's Third Committee (the UN's Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee). In 2020, the NGO Committee joined the NGO coalition to End Violence and Harassment in the World of Work, to call for universal ratification of the International Organization (ILO) Convention 190 of the same name, after its historic adoption in 2019.

Committee members engage in advocacy around social issues, submit position papers, make oral and written interventions, serve in Expert Groups, collect examples of best practices from constituencies, publish studies, and create / submit petitions. Two former subgroups were very active in their specific areas: the Subcommittee on the Eradication of Poverty was very influential in the UN's recognition of the importance of the need for a Social Protection Floor, while the Working Group on Poverty and Climate Change helped pave the way toward the recognition of linkages between poverty and climate change.

In partnership with UN DESA and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Foundation, the NGO Committee on Social Development hosts the Civil Society Forum which creates a special space for Civil Society to interact with Member States participating in the UN Commission on Social Development and other multi-stakeholders (such as the Club de Madrid). The Committee also drafts an annual Civil Society Declaration on the priority theme, which is formally presented by the NGO Committee Chair at the opening session of the Commission.

UNANIMA International has been able to significantly expand its access and outreach to the UN, Member States, and other key stakeholders through its participation on the NGO Committee for Social Development (NGO CSocD). For the 2022 - 2024 term, Jean was selected to serve as the Chair of NGO CSocD. She is joined by Liana on the Executive Committee, who serves as the Executive Assistant to the Chair and Executive Committee.



## 2024 Commission for Social Development (CSocD62)

The 62<sup>nd</sup> Commission for Social Development (CSocD62) at the United Nations took place from February 5 - 14, 2024. This year's theme was:

*"Fostering social development and social justice through social policies to accelerate progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieve the overarching goal of poverty eradication."*

UNANIMA International was especially involved in the preparations and negotiations during the Commission, as UI's Executive Director, Jean Quinn, DW, and Executive Assistant/Assistant UN Representative, Liana Almony, both serve on the Executive for the NGO Committee for Social Development (NGO CSocD). NGO CSocD organized a number of preparatory gatherings for the Commission, including a Breakfast with the Bureau of CSocD62 at the Baha'i International Community; a virtual Orientation Session; and visits with the UN Permanent Missions, and morning briefings throughout the Commission with Member State and UN DESA representatives.



As the Chair of NGO CSocD, Jean delivered remarks on the opening panel of the Commission, alongside the Chair of the CSocD62 Bureau, H.E. Ms. Ruchira Kamboj, Permanent Representative of India. Jean also presented this year's NGO CSocD Civil Society Declaration, which has well over 1,000 signatures from individuals and civil society organizations. You can read the Declaration [here](#) and learn more about NGO CSocD's advocacy process [here](#).



Jean and Liana were moderators and/or presenters at the following CSocD Events:

- **Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic Side Event: *Building a Sustainable Future: Adaptive Social Protection as an Engine of Social Development and Justice for the Eradication of Poverty and the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda***  
**Monday, February 5th from 1:15pm-2:45pm ET**

Liana was a panelist at this high-level event organized by the Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic and the Permanent Mission of Luxembourg to the UN.



- **ATD Fourth World Side Event: *Eliminating Inequality and Systemic Inclusion: A Rights-Based Approach to Social and Economic Policy Justice***  
**Tuesday, February 6th from 11:45am-1:15pm ET**

The panel discussed social policy best practices, through a national and international lens, that contribute to social justice, reduce inequalities and systemic exclusion, while focusing on structural solutions that change narratives and reduce poverty. Panelists provided a social justice framework to advance equitable social policies and actions.

Jean participated as a speaker on a panel that included Professor Olivier De Schutter (UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights); Celine Fabre (Counselor for the Permanent Mission of Haiti to the UN), and Lorraine Kelly and Jimmy Power (ATD Fourth World Ireland activists and representatives with lived experience).



**Housing as a Human Right**

- Safe, stable, affordable housing was first recognized as a human right in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (article 25)
- Housing is critical to people experiencing homelessness and poverty in all aspects of their lives, including physical and mental health, access to employment, and education
- The human right to housing is "more than a roof" because a home is not just a commodity or even a shelter. **A home is the very foundation of family stability, personal belonging, and community**
- **The human right to housing is therefore the right to live in a decent home in peace and dignity, and to live in a society where housing is affordable to all on an equitable basis**
- The right to housing is built on the foundation of basic human rights principles: universality, equity, and participation

UNANIMA INTERNATIONAL

- High-Level NGO CSocD Side Event: *Reviewing Progress on Implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration***  
 Tuesday, February 6th from 1:15pm-2:45pm ET



An opportunity to review the impact of the Copenhagen Declaration 29 years on and an examination of how the international community will prepare for future societal challenges.

**MODERATED BY**  
 Jean Quinn UNANIMA International, Chair of the NGO CSocD      Cecilia Schirmeister Representative of the Bahá'í International Community to the United Nations

**PANEL 1**  
 REFLECTIONS ON WHERE WE HAVE COME FROM, WHAT WAS ACHIEVED AND WHAT IS STILL TO BE DONE  
 H.E. Ana Paula Zacarias, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations  
 Pres. Danilo Türk, Former President of Slovenia and President of Club de Madrid  
 Prof. Sakiko Fukuda-Parr, Professor of International Affairs, The New School (TBD)

**PANEL 2**  
 LOOKING FORWARD TO WHERE WE WANT TO BE AND HOW TO GET THERE  
 H.E. Paula Narváez, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations  
 H.E. Ms. Gloria Reyes, General Director of Supérate, Dominican Republic  
 Dr. Michael Bröning, Executive Director of the New York Office, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

Jean moderated this event ahead of the 30th anniversary of the Copenhagen Declaration, which provided an opportunity to gain perspective, take stock, identify lessons learned, and consult on the direction of the social development agenda. Speakers for the first session were H.E. Ms. Ana Paula Zacarias (Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations); H.E. Mr. Danilo Türk, (Former President of Slovenia and President of Club de Madrid); and Professor Sakiko Fukuda-Parr (Development Economist and Professor of International Affairs, The New School).

The second session was moderated by Ms. Cecilia Schirmeister (Representative of the Bahá'í International Community to the United Nations), and the speakers included H.E. Ms. Gloria Reyes (General Director of Supérate, Dominican Republic); Mr. Claudio Garrido (Deputy Permanent Representative Minister Counsellor, Mission of Chile to the United Nations); and Dr. Michael Bröning (Executive Director of the New York Office, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung).



- Habitat International Side Event: *Inclusive Social and Fiscal Policies: Key to Achieving Poverty Eradication and Women's Right to Land and Habitat***  
 Wednesday, February 7th from 11:45am-1:00pm ET

Jean was the keynote speaker at this side event, in which the main objective of was to focus on the key issues that are driving people into poverty and highlight effective strategies to ameliorate the situation.

The event was Moderated by Mr. Andrew Allimadi (Coordinator, Cooperative Issues, Division of Inclusive Social Development, DESA, United Nations), and facilitated by Dr Ify Ofong (Main

Representative to the UN, WorldWIDE Network Nigeria). The speakers included Mr. Daniel Perell (Representative to the UN, Bahai International Community); Ms. Lydia Stazen (Chair, NGO Working Group to End Homelessness, and Executive Director, IGH); and Dr Ronald King (Representative to the UN, ACCN and Senior Advisor (WorldWIDE Network Nigeria)



- **UNANIMA International Side Event: *Decommodifying People, Place, and Planet: Transformative Policies Towards Unconditional Inclusion and Belonging***  
Wednesday, February 7th from 1:15-2:30pm ET

UNANIMA International's side event was introduced by Jean and moderated by Liana. It looked at the consequences of upholding social policies which commodify people, place, and planet, and the transformative policies that are needed.

Speakers at the event were Fergal Mythen (H.E. Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the UN); Francesca De Ferrari (Program Management Officer and Sustainable Development Expert, UN-Habitat NY); Bhumika Muchhala (Political Economist/Senior Adviser, Third World Network); Winifred Doherty (Main Representative to the UN, Our Lady of the Good Shepherd); Maryann Broxton (Main Representative to the UN, International Movement ATD Fourth World).





- **Multi-stakeholder Forum on the Priority Theme: *Good practices and innovative solutions in promoting social development and social justice***  
Thursday, February 8th from 3:00pm-6:00pm ET

As chair of NGO CSocD, Jean moderated the Multi-Stakeholder Forum on the Priority Theme during the 9th plenary meeting of CSocD62. Panelists discussed good practices and innovative solutions in promoting social development and social justice. Jean was joined by Chair Carla Carlson (Mission of the Dominican Republic); H.E. Ambassador Danilo Turk (Club de Madrid); Doug O'Brien (National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA International (NCBA CLUSA); Dr. Ifeyinwa Ofong (Habitat International Coalition); Cathy Feingold (AFL-CIO); and Shea Gopaul (International Organisation of Employers (IOE)).



- **Civil Society Forum**  
Friday, February 9th from 9:00am-2:45pm ET

As well as presenting on the Opening Panel of the Civil Society Forum, Jean also moderated the closing session.



## COP28 – United Nations Climate Change Conference

The 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) took place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates from November 30-December 12, 2023. UNANIMA International was greatly involved in the COP28 proceedings, and Jean and Liana attended numerous events in the “Blue Zone,” the high-level conference zone to which those accredited had exclusive access.



The official side event that UNANIMA International sponsored and participated in was titled a “Global Catholic Letter to the COP28 Presidency.” Executive Director Jean Quinn moderated the event and Executive Assistant Liana Almony spoke as a panelist, and both played a large part in writing the actual global catholic letter which was submitted to the presidency. The event was meant to reflect the ideas espoused in Pope Francis’ Laudate Deum, which he intentionally released during the lead-up to COP28. Each speaker on the panel did a wonderful job of speaking to their shared values and goals from their own unique perspectives, emphasizing the necessity of a holistic vision of sustainability which confronts the context-specific needs of vulnerable communities. Liana spoke on the gendered impacts of climate displacement, which illustrates the interconnection of all these issues through a narrower focus.



The panel also featured Catholic leaders from all over the world, including the Archbishop Peter Loy Chong, President of the Federation of Catholic Bishops’ Conferences of Oceania; Bishop Lizardo Estrada Herrera, the General Secretary of the Latin American and Caribbean Catholic Episcopal Council; and Father Jean

Germain, the Deputy Secretary General Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar. There was also an impressive turn-out at the event given that it was scheduled for 6:30-8:00 pm local time, and the in-person audience was dominantly made up of youth. Following the event, Jean and Liana spoke with some civil society representatives from the audience who wished to learn more about gender equality as it relates to climate change adaptation and resilience.



## UISG Advocacy Forum 2023

October 20-24 in Rome, Italy

The UISG Advocacy Forum, conducted in collaboration with the Global Solidarity Fund, took place in Rome at the end of October. The Forum aimed to stimulate an advocacy and action-oriented conversation to promote and implement sustainable lifestyles, social and economic practices respectful of the need of the most vulnerable people, and communities guided by spirituality, solidarity, and non-discrimination.

Jean was invited to speak at the opening of the Forum on Leadership, Development and Advocacy on behalf of UNANIMA International. The session was chaired by H.E. Chiara Porro—Australian Embassy to the Holy See. While there, Jean also shared her expertise with advocating for human rights and social justice at the UN, connected with other woman leaders, and met with the Foreign Press. An article about the proceedings published in the Vatican News is available [here](#), and to read about the Press Conference Jean participated in with the Foreign Press visit the Global Sisters Report click [here](#).



# Research



## UNANIMA International Research Coordinator

After an extensive interview and selection process, in February 2024 UNANIMA International hired a new Research Coordinator, Tasmi Imlak, to conduct and compile research for a new publication on children and youth. Tasmi began work at the UNANIMA International Office on March 4, 2024

### About Tasmi:

“My name is Tasmi Imlak, and I am a Muslim Bangladeshi American woman. With a background in psychology and international development, I am deeply passionate about social justice and fostering empowering dialogue. Throughout my career, I have dedicated myself to supporting underprivileged communities vulnerable to various challenges, including physical, mental, developmental, and social disadvantages and disabilities. I have actively contributed to initiatives aimed at the wellbeing and betterment of these communities.

As a Muslim and a child of immigrants, I draw upon diverse cultural experiences to inform my work. In my free time, I enjoy taking walks in nature, painting, scrapbooking, reading, visiting museums and galleries, and honestly, doing anything related to art! Creativity is a core part of who I am and along with cultural sensitivity and inclusivity, I make an active effort to approach my personal and professional work through a creative lens.”



# Statements - Endorsements

## Sample of Statements Signed

- COP28 Position Paper
- COP28 Policy Statement
- World Homeless Day Statement
- Civil Society Declaration
- Statement on the Abduction of the Sisters of Sainte-Anne Congregation in Haiti



## Overview of NGO Committees

UNANIMA International has been actively involved on several Committees, Working Groups and Major Groups throughout 2023/2024:

### NGO Working Group on Migration



The NGO Committee on Migration has continued regular monthly meetings throughout 2024. UNANIMA International is an active member of the Subcommittee for Children in Migration, and Liana Almony was nominated by the Subcommittee to be a candidate for the NGO Committee on Migration Executive Committee. Elections for the Executive Committee will begin in June.

During CSocD62, the Subcommittee on Children in Migration hosted a side event titled “Keeping the Promise: Leave No One Behind! Social Protection Responses to Forcibly Displaced Children.” This event was co-sponsored by UNANIMA International in collaboration with other NGOs and brought together global experts to address the challenges faced by millions of forcibly displaced children worldwide. You can view the recording of the event [here](#), and read the report on the event [here](#).

## NGO Working Group on Girls



UNANIMA International recently became a member of the Working Group on Girls and has attended meetings throughout November and December. The Working Group on Girls helps elevate the voices and needs of girls globally, supports girls' full and equitable participation in international meetings and events and allows girls to advocate on their own behalf in local and global arenas. Our Executive Assistant, Liana Almony, is an active contributor to the Girl Engagement Subcommittee and has been working with other NGO representatives on planning and executing advocacy initiatives in the lead up to CSW68.

## NGO Working Group to End Homelessness



**NGO WORKING GROUP TO END HOMELESSNESS**

UNANIMA International are founding members of the Working Group to End Homelessness which began in 2017. Presently Jean Quinn is the former Chair of the committee and works with the Executive to move forward with advocacy issues on homelessness at the UN. The group's mission is to advocate at the United Nations for persons who are vulnerable, displaced and pursuing the right to adequate housing for all to end homelessness. In this advocacy work, the group partners with a variety of Member States, UN Agencies, NGOs, Committees and Organizations. The Working Group recently celebrated the one-year anniversary of getting a Resolution passed by all 193 Member States in the UN General Assembly. In future years, the group is seeking a new resolution to have International Homeless Day in the UN Calendar.

During CSocD62, the WGEH held a side event titled "Inclusive Social Policies and Poverty Eradication: Key to End Homelessness and Achieve the 2030 Agenda." A recording of this event can be watched [here](#).



**SIDE EVENT: 62ND SESSION OF UN COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Inclusive Social and Fiscal Policies: Key to achieving Poverty Eradication and Women's Right to Land and Habitat.**

**DATE:** Wednesday, 7th February 2024. **TIME:** 11:45am - 1:00pm EST.  
**VENUE:** Conf. Room A UNHQ New York

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**Moderator:**  
**Mr. Andrew Allimadi**  
Coordinator, Cooperative Issues, Division of Inclusive Social Development, DESA, United Nations, New York.

**Keynote Speaker:**  
**Jean Quinn DW**  
Chair, NGO Committee for Social Development & Executive Director UNANIMA International NYC.

**SPEAKERS**

**Mr. Daniel Perell**  
Representative to the UN, Bahá'í International Community, New York.

**Ms. Maria Fornella- Oehninger**  
Representative to UN for Soroptimist International, NY.

**Ms. Lydia Stazen**  
Chair NGO Working Group to End Homelessness & Executive Director, IGH, DePaul University.

**Dr. Ronald King**  
Representative to the UN, ACCN & Senior Adviser, WorldWIDE Network Nigeria.

**FACILITATOR**  
**Dr. Ify Ofong**  
Main Representative to the UN, WorldWIDE Network Nigeria: Women in Development and Environment, & Convener, Habitat International Coalition - WHAWG

Enquiries: [worldwidenigeria@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:worldwidenigeria@yahoo.co.uk)

**SPONSORS**

# Networking

## Member States

NGO CSocD met with over 25 Member States to discuss advocacy priorities and share about our work before CSocD62 began. As members of the Executive Committee, Jean and Liana attended Mission Visits with the CSocD62 Bureau, including Chair H.E. Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj of India. Following the visit with India, Jean and Liana were invited to a dinner reception hosted by Ambassador Kamboj at the Mission of India to celebrate her Chairmanship and the beginning of CSocD62.

Throughout the month of January, Jean and Liana met with Ambassadors, Counsellors, and other Member State Representatives from India, the Dominican Republic, Luxembourg, North Macedonia, the United States, Poland, Finland, Egypt, Israel, and Russia. These visits, along with the Breakfast with the Bureau of CSocD62 at the Baha'i International Community, and the morning briefings with the Bureau throughout the Commission, acted as opportunities to build strong relationships between UNANIMA International and Member States.

Jean's participation in the various panels and forums throughout CSocD62 also cemented relationships with the Missions of Portugal and Chile, as well as Danilo Türk, President of Club de Madrid.



## UN DESA

As Chair of NGO CSocD, UN DESA often looked to Jean for her expertise and support throughout CSocD62. Following the Commission, Jean was invited to contribute to UN DESA's SDG blog to highlight how civil society is working together with the UN and the international community to advance social justice and inclusive societies that leave no one behind.

The SDG blog is distributed monthly as part of UN DESA's online newsletter and is sent to over 64,000 subscribers, including government representatives, civil society activists, and scholars around the world. Jean's published blog post can be found [here](#)

### SDG Blog

Vol 28, No. 03 - March 2024

**SDG BLOG**  Jean Quinn, Executive Director, UNANIMA International; Chair, NGO Committee for Social Development



**Marginalized communities are not voiceless; it is time for us to listen**

*By Jean Quinn, Executive Director, UNANIMA International; Chair, NGO Committee for Social Development*

## Regional Travel

Looking ahead to 2024, UNANIMA International will continue to build strategic partnerships and friendships through regional travel and participation in relevant conferences. In 2024, Jean and Liana will attend the UN Civil Society Conference from May 9-10 in Nairobi, Kenya. Jean will also participate in a regional visit in Australia, and Liana will attend the 2024 Climate Change Conference (COP29) in Azerbaijan from November 11-22.





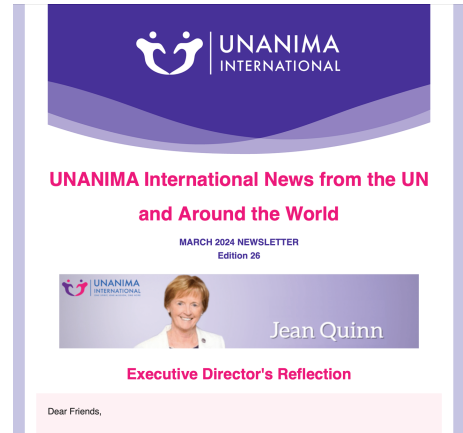
# Communications

## Social Media

UNANIMA International continues to utilize Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for social media outreach. We also began rebuilding our presence on LinkedIn in recent months. We will continue to rely on social media as a tool for networking, community education, and advocacy.

## Newsletters

Five editions of the newsletter were produced in 2023 (March, May, July, October, and December). The newsletter is produced on a Mailchimp template that was designed by graphic designer, Julie Conway.

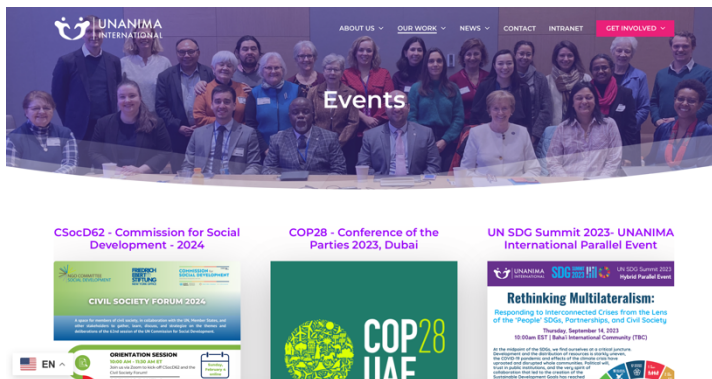


## Website

The UI team continues to assess and make improvements on our website. Building upon the redesign completed by our technology support people at Red Pixel in January 2023, we are currently updating and refreshing our site. Our aim is to keep the content current, easier to navigate, and ensure news of our events, statements, and publications is highlighted in the blog and related pages as they happen.



We have seen an increase in traffic to our site as a result of adding translation. Currently the UI website allows visitors to access the site in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Korean, Italian, Japanese, and Indonesian. Other languages can be added upon request.



Additionally, our website statistics show that highlighting our publications on the site have resulted in them being downloaded in large numbers. For instance, the *Hidden Faces of Homelessness - Volume 1* has been downloaded 407 times since it was posted. This is a very high number considering that the publication was also printed and widely distributed.

## Communications with the Board

Emails have been sent to the Board throughout the year, particularly at times of notable events (such as COP28 and CSocD62), and documents concerning upcoming Board meetings. We hope to move towards Board Members utilizing the Intranet more regularly to find such documents.



Emails since September 2023 have included:

- Request to sign the Civil Society Declaration
- CSocD62: Event Information
- Information about dates and lodging options for the February Board meeting
- Board Meeting materials, updated Board Contact List, Board Meeting Minutes
- News of the kidnappings of the Sisters in Haiti
- COP28 Resources and Information Pack

## Publications

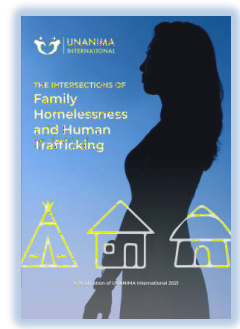
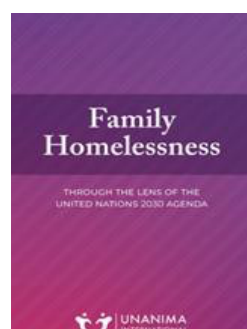
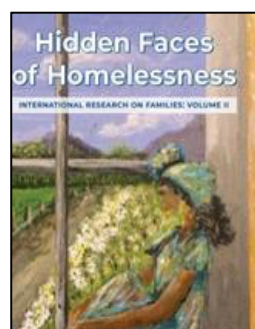
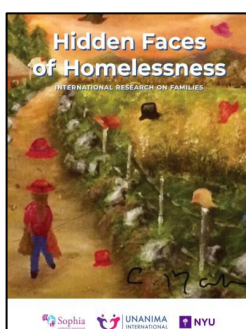
### Internal

UNANIMA International currently has five publications, each focusing on family homelessness. In the first and second volumes of the “Hidden Faces of Homelessness,” UNANIMA International explored family homelessness through different country case studies.

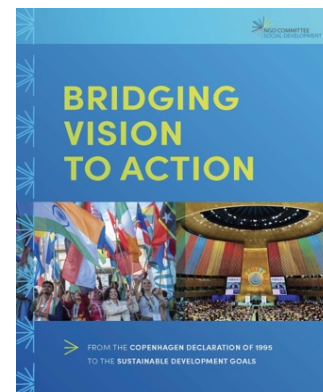
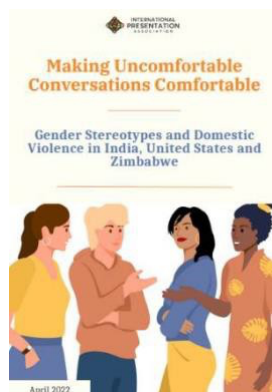
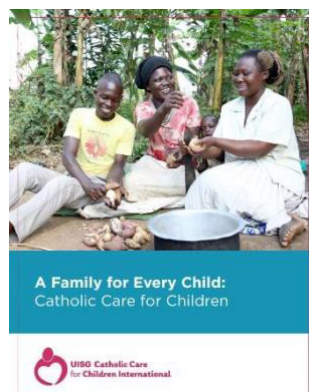
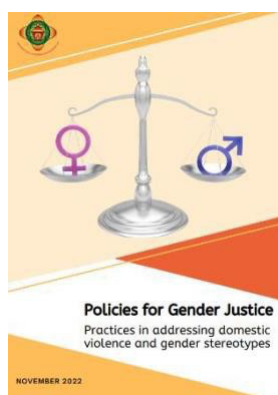
In the first and second volumes of “Family Homelessness Through the Lens of the 2030 Agenda,” homelessness was researched in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Lastly, “The Intersections of Family Homelessness and Human Trafficking” investigates the mutual causes of homelessness and human trafficking, as well as how human trafficking can push more women and girls into homelessness.

We look forward to producing a publication with a focus on children in 2024



## External



### **“Making Uncomfortable Conversations Comfortable: Gender Stereotypes and Domestic Violence in India, United States, and Zimbabwe”**

On May 25th, the International Presentation Association (IPA) launched this new research publication. Jean Quinn was interviewed for the publication and shared her experiences working with homeless women/families as it relates to domestic violence and gender. Notably, Jean drew attention to how homeless women saw themselves in relation to men, as well as the need for early intervention strategies to break cycles of abuse.

### **“A Family for Every Child: Catholic Care for Children”**

Catholic Care for Children, an initiative of the International Union of Superiors General, envisions a world where all children can grow up in safe, nurturing families and is actively reducing the need for institutional care by encouraging and facilitating family- and community-based care for children. Jean’s contribution to this publication looked at how this model and reforms for children in alternative care at the international level, can make an immeasurable difference in the lives of children without families.

### **“Policies for Gender Justice: Practices in Addressing Domestic Violence and Gender Stereotypes”**

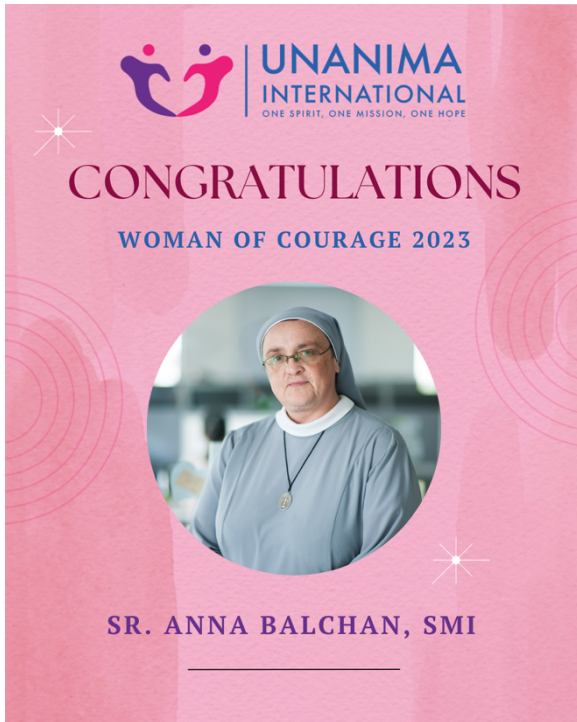
Lara Hicks, on behalf of UNANIMA International, was interviewed for this publication by the International Presentation Association (IPA) research team back in August. IPA conducted interviews with practitioners, members of civil society, and people with lived experience in the areas of domestic violence and gender justice. The research will be officially launched and made public during an IPA webinar in January 2023.

### **“Bridging Vision to Action: From the Copenhagen Declaration of 1995 to the Sustainable Development Goals”**

The NGO CSocD put together a taskforce to review progress on the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Sustainable Development Goals, and published and disseminated the findings before this year’s CSocD to inform the work of the delegates and CSocD membership. The publication was officially launched and made public during the Breakfast with the CSocD Bureau on January 29, 2024.

# Woman of Courage 2023

## Sr Anna Balchan, SMI



The 2023 Woman of Courage award ceremony honoring Sr Anna Balchan, SMI, from Poland, took place on December 6th, 2023, via Zoom. Sr Anna, a sister of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mary Immaculate, attended the ceremony alongside Salvatorian Sisters, Sr Noemi Raczowska, and Sr Magdalena Kumorek.

Sr. Anna is a theologian, therapist, and social activist. She has over 19 years of experience working with victims of human trafficking, the homeless, addicts, and sex workers. She is one of the founders of the Association and Care Centre, where she helps victims of human trafficking and domestic violence. The Center assures social and material help for those under its care, helping them recover their balance - both psychological and spiritual - and regain the sense of self-respect and dignity. Sr Anna has also served on many teams counteracting trafficking and domestic violence.



UNANIMA International's Board President, Celia Martin, presented the award, declaring Sr Anna, 'truly a woman for others.' It was an honor for attendees to hear the words of Sister Anna. She praised the work of UNANIMA International, and the issues being highlighted—especially human trafficking. She said that this award means so much because it is recognition from other Sisters on the frontlines, who work with 'the people,' and so she shares the award with them. We

congratulate Sister Anna on being awarded UNANIMA International's 2023 Woman of Courage.



# Administration & Finances

## Insurance

ADP (our Payroll administrator) handles UI's Workers Compensation Insurance, Disability Insurance, and Unemployment Insurance. ADP automatically takes out the cost of this insurance every month when processing our payroll.

Our Office Insurance is handled by Christian Brothers Risk Pooling Trust. This policy is paid in three installments over the year. As per the advice of our Accountant, last year we increased the office personal contents insurance from \$10,000 to \$20,000. Our policy also covers excess liability coverage, office contents, general liability coverage, and crime coverage.

## Financial Records

Our financial records continue to be kept on QuickBooks, which our accountant can access. Financial Reconciliations and finance reports are produced monthly. Reports on different financial aspects of the company are also available on ADP and our online bank statements—all of which are filed into our Dropbox backup cloud software, along with invoices and receipts.

## 2024 Budget

The 2024 budget was presented to the Board and approved at the September 2023 Board Meeting. After discussion with congregation leaders over a Zoom meeting, it was decided that membership dues would be raised by 8% for the 2024 financial year, along with staff salaries. Membership dues will be increased by 3% annually moving forward.

## Accountant

Our accountant is John Corcoran from Owen J. Flanagan & Company. At the time of writing, he has been sent all the documents needed for his 2023 Financial Report. He will present this to the Board at the September 2024 Board Meeting.

## Membership Dues and Donations

UNANIMA International received all 2023 congregation membership dues in full, totaling \$263,942.

Donations received totaled \$19,583. Please see the table for a breakdown.

Congregation/Individual	Amount
Bon Secours	\$2,000
Patricia Boroughs	\$10
Sisters of Notre Dame	\$5,000
Sisters of Charity	\$5,000
Marist Sisters	\$2,573.20
Brigidines	\$5,000
Total	\$19,583

"We thank you for your ongoing support of UNANIMA International, and look forward to continuing our work advocating for those left furthest behind in our world"



**UNANIMA**  
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