

## SCNY Office of Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation Update – March 2017



### **CSW61 in New York City – A Reflection and A Prayer.**

Thousands of women gather each year during March for the CSW (Commission on the Status of Women). A lively, and consciousness raising event, it can be overwhelming to meet so many women from around the world, many wearing their traditional and cultural dress, all sharing their experiences. The theme this year was the economic empowerment of women. What I learned increased my understanding and strengthened my belief in how the Sisters of Charity, Associates and sponsored ministries empower women, children and families. I also wondered how many of us and our colleagues see themselves as part of the 2030 Agenda that calls us to address the 17 SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) and envision a sustainable future that addresses together social, economic and environmental issues. One session emphasized that care work needs to be identified and correlated to its economic cost and benefit. Much of women's work in the home, fields, and in caring for others is not compensated and thus it's economic impact is undervalued.

*Countering Xenophobia: The Social and Economic Impact of Migrant Women* was a parallel event at the Salvation Army which presented facts and debunked myths. Hosted by the *Subcommittee on Xenophobia and Social Inclusion* of the *NGO Committee on Migration*, it provided excellent information and resources that can also be found on the *NGO Committee on Migration* website. Sister Teresa Kotturan, Sisters of Charity Federation NGO Representative, is a member of this committee.

The UN has started a global initiative, TOGETHER, that 1) aims to change negative perceptions and attitudes towards refugees and migrants, and 2) to strengthen the social contract between host countries and communities, and refugees and migrants. Its website, [together.un.org](http://together.un.org), will be the interactive hub for finding out information and joining the initiative. It invites civil society, private sector, member states, UN system, community and general public to get involved. Best practices, tools, resources and facts will be on the website.

**G**roups in our New York area with whom the Sisters of Charity collaborate, such as The Interfaith Center of New York and The New York Immigration Coalition, are already doing great things to counter xenophobia, discrimination and prejudice.

Another parallel event, *Defense of Land and Water: Economic Empowerment for Indigenous Women*, hosted by the UN Mining Committee, raised awareness of the land and water as the "commons" which have ensured the collective wellbeing of the community where all members have rights to access, use and share the benefits. Dispossession and displacement is on the



increase. Studies show there is a direct relationship between hunger, food security, land owned/access to common commons and forests and decreasing number of marginal farmers. Our Guatemalan brothers and sisters came to mind! Perhaps, one day soon they can share their experiences, not only with us, but at the Commission on the Status of Women or the Forum on Indigenous Peoples. Our Federation is involved in both. We and the global community can learn so much from our Guatemalan brothers and sisters.

Another hope – that we, as consumers, recognize how our food, clothing and lifestyle choices affect women, children and families around the world and in our own country. The lower our water footprint, the more clean, potable water there will be for those in developing countries and our own. Using less water helps us address the 2030 SDG 6 on water and other SDGs such as poverty, hunger, education and environment. Water connects us to life - all of life - and blesses us and our global brothers and sisters.

**Food Waste, its connection to water and climate change, and ways we can reduce wasted resources with thoughtful consumption!** The Food and Water Subcommittee of the Global Poverty Task Force asked Nikki Bogan, PJIC Intern during Fall 2016, to develop a Food Waste Brochure. You can request a printed brochure or electronic file from SCNY Office of Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation.



**Journeying This Lent Towards Gospel Nonviolence** Recognizing the power to be and become Peacemakers through Contemplative Silence, Prayer, and Practice, a small group of sisters, Campus Ministry staff and colleagues gathered in the Interfaith Prayer Room on March 6, 20 and April 3. The 2017 Lenten Reflection Guide from the Maryknoll Office For Global Concerns was used as a resource.



**The World on a Metrocard: Round Table and Speakers Series – Local and Global Response to Sustainable Development.** On March 30 in the President’s Reception Room, Sr. Teresa Kotturan, SCN, Sisters of Charity Federation NGO Representative (far left), spoke on *“Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development”* and Dr. Patricia Grove (second from right) spoke on *“You Don’t Know What You’ve Got ‘Til It’s Gone”*. Students raised thoughtful questions afterwards. Carol De Angelo, SC, [cdeangelo@scny.org](mailto:cdeangelo@scny.org)