



Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary

NGO with special consultative status in the **Economic and Social Council** of the United Nations since **2013** and with the **Department of Public Information** since **2006**.

News from the UN - # 93

RSHM at the UN

May 2018

Inter-faith Conference on Migration



In early May a two-day Conference was organized by **Caritas Internationalis** and the **Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See** to the United Nations entitled *Sharing the Journey of Migrants and Refugees: An*

Interfaith Perspective on the Global Compacts. A panel discussion featured religious leaders from different faith traditions including Judaism, Islam and Hinduism as well as Christian leaders from the Greek Orthodox church, the Anglican Communion and the Catholic Church. Each brought perspectives and insights from their religion on the topic of migration, and shared information about how their faith responded to the needs of millions of refugees and migrants on the move. As **Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle**, President of CARITAS Internationalis noted “Migration is

about human persons. They have human stories and dreams. By denying the humanity of a migrant or refugee, we reveal our own lack of humanity,...We all have migrant DNA!” One of those stories was shared by a young Iraqi refugee who had migrated to the United States as a teenager after being kidnapped and tortured by extremists.

Side events highlighted migrants’ stories of hope and challenge, and the concrete policies and actions of **Catholic Relief Service, Jesuit Refugee Service, Church World Service, Islamic Relief** and others in the field to facilitate the integration of refugees and migrants in host communities. Inter-faith responses to the plight of migrant and refugee children were



also shared. → [Watch the short video](#) → Listen to [Cardinal Tagle](#)

“*Hope is the force that drives the hearts of those who depart... and it is also the impulse in the heart of those who welcome: the desire to encounter, to get to know each other, to dialogue.... Hope is the force that drives us “to share the journey.”* **Pope Francis**

“**Share the Journey**” is the awareness raising campaign launched by Pope Francis in September 2017 to strengthen the bonds of our global human family. It aims to create more spaces and opportunities for migrants and communities to come together. By promoting the “culture of encounter” highlighted by Pope Francis, CARITAS aims to combat prejudice and build more inclusive societies.



Share the Journey #sharejourney

→ [Learn more about the campaign...](#)

→ A story from [Colombia](#)

Global Compact Negotiations 14 – 18 May



The **Global Compact for Migration** will be the first, inter-governmentally negotiated agreement, prepared under the auspices of the United Nations, to cover all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner. As the Swiss Co-Chair Mr. Jurg Lauber noted in his opening address to the fourth round of negotiations which took place over a five day period in May, the compact should be “*practical, specific and implementable*”. As well as offering comments and suggestions on the last part of the draft document, member states discussed 7 specific areas. These included challenging issues such as “*pathways for regular migration and regularization*”; “*fundamental human rights and services*” “*natural disasters, climate change and migration*” and “*the integration and contributions of irregular migrants*”. Two consultation sessions were held with Civil Society representatives, and an open letter to Member states was submitted with joint advocacy from more than 300 NGOs. → [Read it](#)



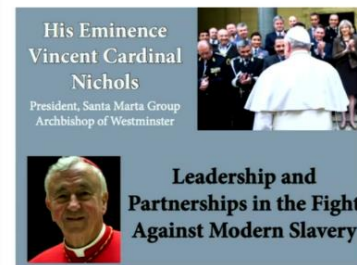
RSHM were well represented at the Interfaith Migration Conference on 3rd May. We welcomed **Sr Carol Schommer (Zambezi Region)** as well as **Srs. Kathleen Kanet** and **Virginia Dorgan (EAP)**.



As **RSHM** we have signed onto the common position paper and are active in the **NGO Committee on Migration**. Veronica RSHM has been part of small teams doing “**Mission visits**” during the month of May, including the **Permanent Missions of Mali and Tuvalu**, advocating for specific points relating to the human rights of migrants. It is hoped that the negotiations will be completed in July and that the agreed draft will be adopted by consensus at an intergovernmental conference to be held in **Morocco in December 2018**. → Learn about the [UN Global Compacts](#)

Partnerships – their role in ending Trafficking

The importance of Partnerships in the work to end Human Trafficking was highlighted by a recent high level event at the UN co-sponsored by the **Holy See Mission to the UN and the Santa Marta Group**. Representing the innovative partnership between the Church and Law Enforcement, the Santa Marta Group was formed in response to an initiative of Pope Francis 4 years ago when he invited senior law enforcement officers and Police chiefs to his residence for a Conference. They signed the **Santa Marta Commitment**. In the 4 years since it was formed, the group has expanded to include religious groups on the ground and law enforcement agents in 34 countries. They work to ensure that victims of trafficking are rescued and not victimized, that they receive proper care, and that their traffickers are held accountable under the law. **Lifeway Network** was represented on the Panel by **Sr. Melissa Camardo SC** who highlighted the important role of accompaniment and support to survivors of human trafficking who need to re-build a sense of trust in relationships. RSHM are closely involved with Lifeway Network which has hosted 84 trafficking survivors from 34 countries over the last 10 years.



Cardinal Vincent Nichols (UK) and Kevin Hyland, the first UK Commissioner for Human Trafficking both spoke at the event and the gala dinner that honored the Santa Marta group. Veronica RSHM was one of several NGO representatives invited to join the CARITAS table. ➡ Learn more about the [Santa Marta Group](#)

➡ Read the [declaration](#)



Global Pact for the Environment

The U.N. General Assembly voted on May 10th to take a first step towards establishing a **Global Pact for the Environment**. This aims to be the first international legally binding agreement, gathering and harmonizing all environmental laws, and filling existing gaps. The French Ambassador to the UN introduced the proposal in the name of 90 co-sponsoring member states, noting that the *“unprecedented deterioration of our environment is already causing hundreds of thousands of deaths due to planetary warming, water and air pollution, and the deterioration of biodiversity and soils. These attacks on the environment are affecting the most vulnerable populations first,”* The proposal was adopted 143 – 5 with the USA voting against it.

➡ Go here livelaudatosi.org. Pledge to 1) *Pray for & with creation* 2) *Live more simply* and 3) *Advocate to protect our common home*.



Harmony with Nature

Do we need to reconsider how we relate to the natural world, recognising the intrinsic value of Nature and acknowledging that the earth, too, has rights?

The eighth **Interactive Dialogue of the General Assembly on Harmony with Nature** to commemorate **International Mother Earth Day** aimed to inspire citizens and societies to adopt an Earth-centered world view, valuing the interconnected relationships between humankind and the environment, and the need for production and consumption patterns to be sustainable, and lifestyles in harmony with nature. ➡ [Read more...](#)

Briefs: Harmony with Nature



What is the link between choices we make about the food we eat and climate change? Learn about some helpful resources relating to food and climate change at the ➡ [Center for Ecoliteracy](#).

- Be inspired by the testimony of a **Zimbabwean** working with **EarthLore Foundation** on *“reweaving the basket of life”*. ➡ [Read about it](#) ➡ [watch the video](#)
- There is a proposal to ask the UN General Assembly to adopt the **Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth** proposed by Bolivia 8 years ago. ➡ [Read it](#)
- Learn about the **Atlas of Environmental Justice initiative**, and how you can participate. ➡ [Read more...](#)

Fast Facts

- **58% of the world's coral reefs** are potentially threatened by human activity
- **3 litres of water** are used to produce one plastic bottle that holds **1 litre of water**.
- **We are using up 50% more natural resources** than the Earth can provide. At our current population, we need **1.5 Earths**.
- **About 15% of all greenhouse gases** come from deforestation. **Every minute** the earth loses an amount of forest equal to **27 soccer fields**, according to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
- Current rates of species extinction are **about 100 times higher than long-term average rates** based on fossil data,

Distribution:

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