



Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary
 NGO Associated with the Department of Public Information (DPI)
 The United Nations



News from the UN #16: RSHM at the UN

31 August 2009

Dear RSHM family and friends around the world,
 We're at the beginning stages of a 6-year renovation plan for all the buildings at UN Headquarters. Workmen are putting final touches on a temporary building to house many of the Secretariat offices and meeting rooms. Office moving will take place in earnest this fall, so there'll be lots of emphasis on new UN directories and maps! Stay tuned for updates.

UN Academic Impact Initiative

Academic Impact is a new UN global initiative that aligns colleges and universities around the world with the United Nations in actively supporting [ten universally accepted principles](#) in the areas of human rights, literacy, sustainability and conflict resolution. Academic Impact also asks each participating college or university to actively demonstrate support of at least one of those principles each year. By formally endorsing the ten principles in the Academic Impact, institutions make a commitment to use education as an engine for addressing global problems. The formal launch event of this worldwide initiative will take place at UN Headquarters in late spring 2010. [Read more - English, French, Portuguese, Spanish](#)



62nd Annual DPI/NGO Conference being held in Mexico City under banner "For Peace & Development: Disarm Now!"

Participants from around the world will gather from 9 to 11 September 2009 to discuss how they can contribute to reducing arms while advancing peace. The current global economic and food crises have necessitated a realignment of the world's financial resources. This can only be enhanced by effective comprehensive disarmament. Our RSHM NGO will be represented by Rita Arthur (EAP), and WAP RSHM Fidelia Espin, Virginia Garza, Patricia Ineza, and Anna Maria Lionetti

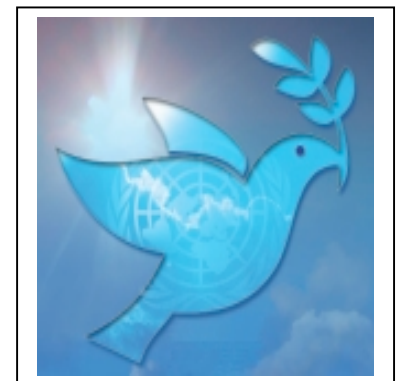
Conference website: <http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/conference/>

Spanish video YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sDqecr1yZ_o

CEDAW turns 30...

The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) adopted at UN Headquarters 18 December 1979, is often described as an international bill of rights for women. Consisting of a preamble and 30 articles, it defines what constitutes discrimination against women and sets up an agenda for national action to end such discrimination. Click (English, French, Russian, Spanish). Currently 185 countries – over 90% of the members of the UN – are party to the Convention. The United States is one of the few countries that has not ratified the Convention. Perhaps in 2009? [Click here to read member states & CEDAW.](#)

International Day of Peace ("Peace Day") 21 Sept provides an opportunity for individuals, organizations and nations to create practical acts of peace on a shared date. It was established by a United Nations resolution in 1981 to coincide with the opening of the General Assembly as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence. The 2009 theme focuses on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation "As we observe the International Day of Peace with world leaders gathered in New York for the 64th session of the UN General Assembly, I will proclaim one strong, simple message: We Must Disarm!", stated the Secretary-General recently. Visit <http://internationaldayofpeace.org/> for more information.



International Day for Eradication
of Poverty - 17 October

Children Speak Out Against Poverty



“Investments in children and the realization of their rights are among the most effective ways to eradicate poverty.”

In recognition of the upcoming 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) the 2009 observance of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty focuses on the plight of children living in poverty and the need to fulfill their rights in partnership with them and in keeping with the Convention. [Read more.](#)

Our RSHM NGO is a member of the 17 October Planning Task Force, and students from Marymount School New York are producing a power point presentation focusing on the theme of children speaking out against poverty. The “Stand Up and Speak Out Against Poverty” will be held world-wide 16-18 Oct, and the commemorative ceremony at the UN will be Mon, 19 October.

RSHM Visitors at the UN

Fifty-five RSHM began this summer’s EAP Convocation at a UN Workshop & Tour on the morning of July 13. The overall theme was NGO presence at the UN: a new ministry for religious congregations. Lucianne Siers, OP, was our workshop facilitator, with NGO panelists Ann Scholz, SSND, Joan Burke, SND, Kevin Dance, CP, & Rita Arthur, RSHM. Carol Zinn, SSJ, opened the workshop with a reflective prayer on our call to ministry at the UN. Our entry into the UN was marked by a short prayer in the UN Meditation Room, followed by a tour of the UN. See photos at <http://www.rsham.org/convocation09/photos-un.html>

Anne Murphy, RSHM (NEP): we’re delighted to announce that Anne will be with us again this fall as an intern with our NGO ministry. She arrives in New York mid-September, and will return to Dublin in early December, and will be staying with the 93rd Street RSHM Community while she’s in New York. Anne was with us for six weeks in fall 2008, and we look forward to welcoming her back this September!

Lorna Edmundson: Former VP of Academic Affairs at Marymount College Tarrytown spent part of her recent sabbatical doing research at the UN Library and connecting with the RSHM NGO at the UN.

Olive Swan (former RSHM) and her daughter Kathleen O’Sullivan: we enjoyed a delightful breakfast at the UN on Aug 14, with warm reminiscences about our recent experiences in Zambia and Zimbabwe, and strengthening future connections with the UN. Remember – our welcome mat is always out at the UN for members of our RSHM NGO from any part of the world!

Warm wishes to all and deep thanks for the many expressions of support for our NGO ministry!



Rita

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