



# Embrace the World

A journal of Congregational justice issues prepared by:  
The Good Shepherd International Justice Peace Office

October 2012, # 34

Welcome to Embrace the World# 34! Read about justice peace issues and networking of GS across the globe. This is your space to talk about your activities! Don't forget to send articles for inclusion in a future edition. Yolanda Sanchez, JP Communications.

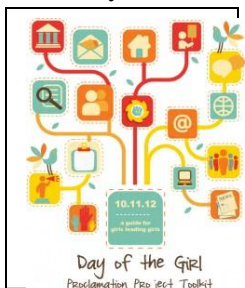
**Winifred tells us about:**

## DAY OF THE GIRL

We know that all of Good Shepherd is concerned with the girl child. Did you know that for the first time there is an International Day of the Girl child? Yes! The United Nations has declared October 11 as International Day of the Girl.

This new world day will help to prioritize girls' rights as an outstanding issue in the coming decades. This is important because we know that girls face double discrimination due to their gender and age, and are the most marginalized and discriminated group across the globe.

Our GS NGO Representative in New York, Winifred, always works hard to promote the girl child's rights. During the Commission for Social Development, February 2012, Winifred made an oral intervention entitled 'Empowering Girls -The Untapped Potential at the Bottom of the Youth Pyramid.' She strives, as I hope we all do, to consider girls' growth and potential from a human rights perspective – if society provides the support necessary for her wellbeing, education and empowerment, she will flourish and contribute to her family and society.



Many of you have already participated in the Social Protection Floor campaign that seeks to guarantee access to health care, education and basic service of water and sanitation for all. It is the type of intervention crucial for the girl child. An extra year of primary school boosts girls' wage

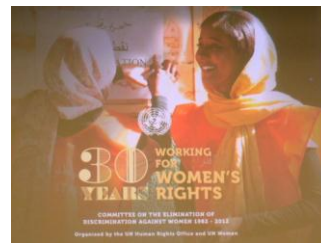
earning power by 10% to 20%. Add a year of secondary school; she gains 15% to 25%. Let's keep the girl child on the top of the global agenda!

### How will you and your girls celebrate the day?

A tool kit has been prepared with suggested resources to help you celebrate. You can download it at: <http://dayofthegirl.org/toolkit/> and let us know what you and the girls did to celebrate! ☘



What form of violence do the women and girls in your regions endure: physical, emotional, sexual, domestic, political, violence associated with conflict zones, rape? [The commission on the Status of Women](#) is taking the theme: **Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls** for its 2013 meeting of governments. NGO's will be active participants, promoting good practices and clear policy. Good shepherd around the world provides many services that alleviate gender violence; we also want to be active in addressing root causes of violence and ensuring legal protections through implementation and enforcement of laws.



This year the [Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Violence against Women \(CEDAW\)](#) celebrates 30 years of age! And still beautiful! This past year has seen submission of CEDAW reports from countries where Good Shepherd is present, such as [Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico and New Zealand](#) (on July); for [Chile](#), it will be the month of October. You can read more on:

GS sisters in Indonesia took the shortest Article, #6, on human trafficking and presented their views in NY in July. How is the Convention implemented in your country? When will your country be heard next? We expect to have 100 percent reporting from GS programs! Will you make the dream come true?☘

Please add your name to the on-line petition. An international coalition of NGOs, which is part Winifred, is being formed to continue the advocacy work. This is a strategic and effective way to eradicate poverty.☘

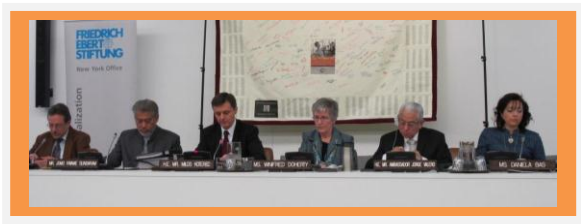
## Speak about Social Protection



I am sure that, by now, you are familiar with the GoPetition logo and the signature of the ‘**Social Protection Floor Initiative**’. [The campaign was launched in June of 2011.](#)

Winifred Doherty as Chair of the NGO Committee for Social Development, who has been very active and enthusiastic promoting this initiative, facilitated the presentation of over 10,000 hand written signatures, including yours.

During the NGO Civil Society Forum entitled



“The Social Protection Floor Initiative (SPFI) – Bridging the Gap to Poverty Eradication” these signatures were presented to the President of the Economic and Social Council, His Excellency Miloš Koterec, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations in New York.

In the background, a banner containing all the signatures that were done on line was prepared for the day. There was an opportunity for participants to sign on the banner itself. A book “Can You Hear Us”, with comments in support of the social protection floor, was available to those in attending.

Since January the big development has been [Recommendation # 202](#) from the International Labor Conference on implementation. This is a [tripartite agreement](#) between Governments, Employers and Workers.

## Photograph of the year



*Mr. Miloš Koterec and Winifred Doherty*

## Looking to the Future

Many of discussions are taking place following the outcome document: [‘The Future We Want’](#) of the Sustainable Development Conference in Rio in June 2012.

A substantive proposal is put forward in another document [‘Realizing the Future We Want for All’](#), a report to the Secretary General from the UN System Task Team on the Post 2015 UN Development Agenda.



It sets out three basic principles: Human Rights, Equality and Sustainability. They provide the foundation of an agenda for achieving a better life

for all people.

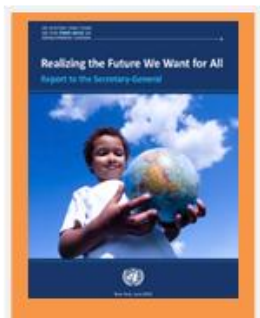
Four Core dimensions requiring holistic approaches to policy and positive synergies are: (i) Inclusive Social Development, (ii) Environmental Sustainability, (iii) Inclusive Economic Development and (iv) Peace and Security.

Implementation of a human rights based social protection floor at national level would go a long way toward laying a foundation. Essential to this is empowering people to participate. This is the

theme of the [Commission for Social Development](#) which is scheduled for February 2013.

Gender equality and the empowerment of women usually come last on the list. Gender issues and gender based violence can no longer be side-lined or segmented as a matter for women's groups or CSW or CEDAW, because gender-based violence is evidenced in every sector of life - economic, political, legal, domestic, social, cultural etc. at the national, regional and global levels.

Gender based violence is one of the worst and most pervasive manifestation of inequality and discrimination. Strategies for prevention of violence and zero tolerance must be prioritized, integrated and addressed simultaneously within the post 2015 Agenda that can only be achieved if women and women's groups are participants in these processes.



The newly formed [UN Women Civil Society Global Advisory Group](#) can be also engaged to developing the post 2015 Agenda. ☸

## 'The World We Want'



To coincide with the announcement of the High Level Panel, civil society organizations launched the "[World We Want](#)" platform -spearheaded by [GCAP](#)

[\(Global Call to Action to End Poverty\)](#)

This platform will be used as a tool to help civil society define the world we want agenda and push the issue at the UN. *You can join the conversation at* <http://www.worldwewant2015.org> ☸

## Good Shepherd and Human Rights

*By Hedwig Joehl, NGO Representative in Geneva*

In the [20<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council](#) some issues of interest to us as Good Shepherd were those concerning [trafficking in persons](#) and [the right to a nationality, the human rights of migrants](#), and finally *the elimination of discrimination against women.*

Some points to highlight: were the concern that the Council expressed for the high number of person being trafficked and how they are beginning a process of consultation to provide basic and effective remedies for the victims. A call was made to States to respect migrants' rights to education, promote prevention and the eradication of discriminatory policies that deny migrants' children access to education.

Another noteworthy issue was the call upon States to ensure full representation and equal participation of women in political, social and economic decision-making as an essential condition for gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls, and as a critical factor in the **eradication of poverty.**

Another issue no less important was the discussion focusing on [Women Human Rights Defenders](#). Remedies and reparations for women who have been subjected to violence, was one of the points addressed.

“Although much progress has been made in realizing women's rights, we must acknowledge that we still live in a world where women face serious inequalities in all spheres of life: at home, at work, in communities and in politics”, said Mrs. Mona Rishmawi, UN Human Rights Chief of Branch. ☸

[Click here! Link to: UN Observances-International Days](#)



## Building Asia-Pacific Networks: GS Singapore against trafficking

By Stancea Vichie, MMS; submitted by C. Nolan



The following is reprinted from [ACRAH news](#) ([Australian Catholic Religious against Trafficking in Humans](#)), Winter Ed. June 2012. From a front page item on building networks, it features GS work.

Early this month, whilst visiting a sister who lives in Singapore, I was able to reconnect with a number of people involved in support of people who have been trafficked into Singapore.

All expressed great appreciation of the opportunity to share what is happening in the human trafficking experience in Singapore. They are pleased that the Government has now launched a *National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons 2012-2015*. It has been prepared by a governmental inter-agency task force. NGO's made some input, including Good Shepherd.

I spent time with Good Shepherd sister Julia Queck, along with Cecilia and Agnes Ee, two of the women on the team who visit the "red light district" in Singapore each week. Trust has been building with both the women and pimps on the streets during the team's work since August. The Good Shepherd Centre, a crisis shelter for women at risk has been receiving a number of women, who have been trafficked, as well as women migrant workers and other women/girls suffering from abuse. ☸

## Trafficking Be Aware / Use the Tools

By Clare Nolan



For those engaged in the areas of trafficking and/or migration, the US TIP (Trafficking in Persons) report can be a valuable tool. Each year it provides a country overview about trafficking. It contains introductory information that gives clear definitions and internationally accepted trends and practices.

The report and other valuable information such as Fact Sheets can be accessed at:

<http://www.state.gov/j/tip/>. (Only in English) ☸

## Economic Justice – The prophetic voice of leadership

By Clare Nolan

In anticipation of the June 2012 [G-20 Summit](#) in Mexico, the Congregational Leadership Team (CLT) sent a letter appealing for Justice to the heads of governments.



The Summit was the 7<sup>th</sup> gathering of heads of the G-20 governments who represent more than 60% of the world's people and about 90% of the global economy. GS CLT wrote to government leaders speaking generally in support of a world in which resources are more equitably shared, one that includes all humanity in our God-given dignity. In particular they spoke in favor of a Financial Transaction Tax (FFT.) GS asked the ministers to support to a FTT in order to generate funds for human development in the poorest areas of the world, with objectives consistent with the UN Millennium Development Goals. They also specified the need for a mechanism to combat corruption within such a scheme.

The GSIJPO was most encouraged with the actions of our congregation leadership and we encourage all regions of GS to likewise take actions to speak on behalf of those who are excluded from our global economy, especially at this time when the structures and systems of economy are so unstable and so disfavor the poor and the powerless.

To date, the congregation has received one direct response, from the office of the Prime Minister of Canada.

See more information on the G-20 issues, including women, poverty, statements by civil society and religious leaders, support for Mid-east and North Africa peoples, youth, etc. at: <http://www.g20.org> (language links available) ☸

## **Bolivia Networking: weaving the threads of relationships to strengthen the mission\*\***

*By Marioly Cespedes, JP contact Bolivia*

Good Shepherd Sisters in Bolivia have been developing their mission on behalf of women, children, and girls in response to problems that violate their human rights. All of this work in the mission has continuity and is enhanced by the Foundation Women Stand Up, addressing the problem of HIV/AIDS and domestic violence, trafficking of children and adolescents for the purpose of commercial and sexual violence.



We have been making interventions strengthened by the charism and energized by the words of Saint Mary Euphrasia "a person is worth more than a world". The desire to implement this valuable message has motivated us to join different networks. Offering our experience, human values and the desire for the defense of rights, we have been assuming responsibilities of leadership within each of them, as chairperson, the Secretariat, etc.

[The Foundation "Women Stand Up"](#) participates in the following networks: National Network against Trafficking in Persons, Network of Care and Prevention of Domestic Violence, in the cities of El Alto and Oruro; Platform against Violence towards Women, Departmental Bureau of Sexual and Reproductive Health, Departmental Network of Children, Adolescents and Youth, in the Department of Santa Cruz; Network against Violence because of Gender and Generation, in the Department of Chuquisaca.



Through this collaboration we have learned that the defense of human rights is the responsibility of society as a whole and networking combines efforts, voices and struggles. This work clearly shows how slowly we are weaving the threads of relationships, which will lead us to different paths in life and mission. \*\*Source: Manager's Office of the Foundation Women Stand Up and each of its regional branches in Bolivia ☸

## **Right to life and to our land**



In the month of July, there were serious violations of human rights in Peru, on the occasion of peaceful demonstrations against the project of the Conga mining, to defend the right to water, threatened by the activities of this project.

The Sisters of the Good Shepherd in Peru, who were supporting the people of the region of Cajamarca, sent news and the testimony of one of the women who participated actively in the development of the peaceful protests which were organized. Read more: [Right to life and to our land \(English and Spanish\)](#)

To express concern and solidarity with the people of this region, some NGOs in New York took the initiative of sending a Statement to President Ollanta Humala through the Representative of Peru to the United Nations. Our NGO representative in New York, Winifred Doherty on behalf of the Good Shepherd NGO, signed this [statement](#) supporting this initiative. ☸

## With our Action we say NO to violence against girls and women

GS sisters in Malaysia, Taiwan, Thailand, Colombia and Peru share with us some of the activities organized on the occasion of [Orange Day](#)



which has been happening on the 25th of each month, since July, as part of the [campaign to end violence against women and girls](#).

To read more about the activities carried out, and to view photos, go to the following links: [Orange Day activities](#) and [From colombia we Say NO](#) ;and also <http://winifredd.files.wordpress.com/2012/09/fotos-dia-naranja-i3.pdf> ☩

## Bring Human Trafficking to Light! Thru partnership



By Clare Nolan

By supporting, along with Corporate and NGO sponsorship, an educational event on Human Trafficking, Good Shepherd Malaysia raised its voice in favor of justice in Mission. The September 8, 2012 event included a distinguished panel and a film screening that gave an opportunity for GS to highlight its own anti-trafficking efforts.

Here is how GS amplified its voice on the event flyer:

[Pusat Kebajikan Good Shepherd](#)

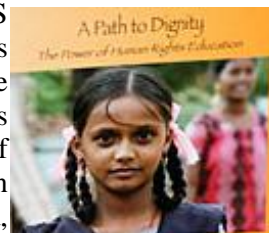
*Our advocacy aims to defend women and girls subjected to trafficking; it is built around supporting and protecting victims and actively working with governments in the Asia-Pacific region to prevent trafficking.*

## Every GS Person can be a Human Rights Educator

*Build Capacity / Teach Human Rights/  
Make your own story of Dignity /Be the Change*

An excellent resource on the importance and impact of human rights education is the newly released 28-minute video “**A Path to Dignity: The Power of Human Rights Education.**” Go to: <http://www.path-to-dignity.org>. Select your language: *English, Español, Français, or Arabic.*

We encourage every GS person to view and discuss this video. The movie presents three case studies showing the impact of human rights education among children in India, law enforcement groups in Australia and women victims of violence in Turkey.



By discussing it with co-workers you can look into ways GS can become a Human Rights Educator in every program and project.

“The realization of human rights requires all to be aware of all people’s rights and of ways to ensure their protection,” says [UN Human Rights Chief Navy Pillay](#).

Human Rights Education builds knowledge, skills and attitudes; it prompts behavior that upholds human dignity. It is a process of empowerment which helps identify problems and seek solutions according to human rights principles. It is based on the understanding of our responsibility to make human rights authentic in our community and society at large. It has a fundamental role in combating discrimination as well as fostering equality and equal opportunities for all.

*Journal notes edited and prepared by*  
**Yolanda Sanchez: [yolasanco@gmail.com](mailto:yolasanco@gmail.com)**

Original in English:  
Translated to Spanish by Victor Carrasco  
Translated to French by: Yolanda Sanchez and Sr. Marie Helene Halligon (France)

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*Thank you.*